NCLCFrench

FREE CHECKLIST

ECA checklist for Express Entry

Who needs an ECA, which organization to choose, documents to send and how to use the report. Checked against canada.ca.

Checked against official sources on October 6, 2026 Interactive version: nclcfrench.com/eca-checklist-express-entry

QUICK ANSWER

You need an ECA for immigration purposes if you studied outside Canada and either apply as a Federal Skilled Worker or want CRS points for that education. Use one of the organizations IRCC designates: WES, ICAS, IQAS, CES (University of Toronto) or ICES (BCIT), or MCC, PEBC or CACB for licensed doctors, pharmacists and architects. The report must be less than 5 years old.

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Who needs an ECA for Express Entry

If you completed your education outside Canada, you need an ECA to be eligible as the principal applicant under the Federal Skilled Worker Program, or to earn points for that education. You can also earn points for your spouse's or common-law partner's education if they're coming with you, which also needs an ECA.

The assessment must be the type made **for immigration purposes**. A report made for a university admission or a professional licence is a different product. Check what your education is worth in points with the CRS calculator and the FSW points calculator.

- Federal Skilled Worker with foreign education: ECA required.
- Canadian Experience Class or Federal Skilled Trades: optional, but without it you get no points for education from outside Canada.
- Canadian diploma, degree or certificate: no ECA needed for that credential.
- Spouse's foreign education: ECA only if you want the spouse points.

Which ECA organization? IRCC's designated list

IRCC accepts ECA reports only from these organizations. For most people, any of the first five works.

Organization	Who it's for	Note
World Education Services (WES)	Any profession	Designated April 17, 2013
International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS)	Any profession	Designated April 17, 2013
Comparative Education Service (CES), University of Toronto	Any profession	Designated April 17, 2013
International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS)	Any profession	Designated August 6, 2015
International Credential Evaluation Service (ICES), BCIT	Any profession	Designated August 6, 2015
Medical Council of Canada (MCC)	Doctors: primary occupation NOC 31100, 31101 or 31102	Must assess your primary medical diploma
Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC)	Pharmacists (NOC 31120) who need a licence to practise	Pharmacists who don't need a licence can use a general organization
Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB)	Architects (NOC 21200) who need a licence to practise	Designated May 20, 2024

If your primary occupation is a doctor, or a licensed pharmacist or architect, you must use the profession-specific body. Everyone else picks from the first five.

How to choose between WES, ICAS, IQAS, CES and ICES

IRCC treats all five general organizations the same. Pick the one whose document requirements you can meet for your country of study (some require transcripts sent directly by your university), then compare their current fees and processing times on their own sites.

ECA document checklist (WES and other organizations)

Each organization publishes its own list for your country and type of credential. Look it up before you pay, then tick these off.

Before you apply

- [ ] **Choose the right organization**
  Doctors, licensed pharmacists and licensed architects use MCC, PEBC or CACB. Everyone else picks one of the five general ones.
- [ ] **Choose the ECA for immigration (IRCC) purposes**
  Not an academic or licensing evaluation. IRCC accepts only the immigration type.
- [ ] **List every credential you want points for**
  Each foreign post-secondary credential you claim needs to be assessed.
- [ ] **Read the country-specific document requirements**
  WES, CES and the others show them by country and credential type. Do this before paying.

Documents

- [ ] **Degree or diploma certificate**
  Final certificate, not a provisional one. ICES, for example, only assesses fully completed credentials.
- [ ] **Academic transcripts or mark sheets**
  Many organizations require them to come straight from your university in a sealed envelope or by secure electronic delivery.
- [ ] **Translations of documents not in English or French** If applicable
  Follow the organization's translation rules for your country exactly, before you send anything.
- [ ] **Proof of name change** If applicable
  If the name on your degree differs from your passport, for example after marriage.
- [ ] **Secondary school certificate** If applicable
  Only if your post-secondary credential isn't equal to a Canadian one, so your secondary education can be assessed instead.
- [ ] **Spouse's degree and transcripts** Spouse
  A separate ECA application, if you claim spouse education points.

After you apply

- [ ] **Write down your reference number**
  WES gives one at submission and asks you to put it on all documents you send.

- [ ] **Track your institution's delivery**
  The file waits until every document is received and accepted. Follow up with your university's registrar.
- [ ] **Download and save the final report**
  You upload it after the ITA. Keep a PDF copy safe.
- [ ] **Enter the ECA details in your Express Entry profile**
  Including the ECA reference number, exactly as printed on the report.

How to get an ECA for Express Entry, step by step

1. DAY 1
   Pick your organization
   Use the table above. Profession-specific rules come first.
2. **Create an account and apply for an ECA for immigration**
   Pay the fee shown on the organization's site and note your reference number.
3. **Get your documents sent**
   Ask your university to send transcripts the way the organization requires. Upload or post the rest yourself.
4. **Wait for verification**
   Some organizations contact your university to confirm the documents, which can put the file on hold until it replies.
5. **Receive the report**
   Check that the Canadian equivalency matches what you expected and that your name is spelled correctly.
6. **Add it to your profile**
   Enter the ECA reference number in your Express Entry profile, then check your score with the CRS calculator.

Common ECA mistakes

DO

- Start the ECA early: your file can't move until your university's documents arrive.
- Check the report will still be less than 5 years old when you submit your PR application.
- Ask your registrar exactly how they will send transcripts, and keep proof of sending.

DON'T

- Don't order an academic or licensing evaluation by mistake.
- Don't use a general organization if you're a doctor, or a licensed pharmacist or architect.
- Don't send provisional certificates or incomplete credentials.

- While you wait, work on French, which can add CRS points too. Start with the free French level check and the NCLC converter.
- Don't claim a foreign degree in your profile before you have the report.

Is your French at NCLC 7?

Strong French can add up to 50 CRS points and opens French-speaker draws. Find your level free in 10 questions, then take a full TCF or TEF mock test.

Check my French level free

Scan to open

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