

FAQ: Construction Program

- 1. Where will I be placed?**

Depending on your qualifications and professional background your placement will be with a host organization, which can be operating anywhere in Canada. Most likely placements will be in British Columbia or Alberta.
- 2. What placements are available?**

Most placements are as carpenter with host organizations mainly working in or with the Log and Timber Builder Industry.
- 3. Can I specify a particular placement that I want to apply for?**

In our initial conversation you can let us know what placement you would prefer. However it is advisable to be flexible and to keep in mind that your chances to be placed also depends on your language skills, attitude and professional background. We will try our best to find you a placement that fits your interest, career and personal goals as closely as possible.
- 4. What are the key/peak seasons?**

Many companies would prefer if a candidate can start in Spring and stay over the summer months, when it is very busy. During the Winter season, due to the weather conditions here in Canada, projects are more limited which is decreasing your chances to find a suitable placement.
- 5. What are the start dates:**

We feel the best start dates are between March and May.
- 6. How much money will I earn?**

Depending on the position and your qualifications you can earn between \$16 and \$30 per hour. We usually advise companies to start with a lower salary during the probation period, to decrease also the pressure on our candidates. This will allow you to get a better understanding of the work as well as familiarize yourself working in an environment where English is required.
- 7. How many hours per week will I work?**

We always inform our host organizations that our candidates need to have at least 30 hours per week, during their entire stay. You will however experience that during the summer season your hours will be much higher compare to the winter. It is not uncommon that candidates have worked close to 60 hours per week during the summer season and barely had enough to do during winter. But this of course also depends on the company and the projects they have available for you.
- 8. How much money should I bring with me?**

You should always have access to “start-up funds” during your first few weeks after you arrive. This is a regulation from Immigration as well since they don’t want you to end up in a bad situation and not be able to support yourself. This is also for your first weeks of accommodation, uniforms, mobile phone, etc, etc. before your first pay check. You should bring or have access to \$2500.
- 9. How long am I expected to stay with the host company?**

The minimum period is 5 to 6 months. However your chances of placement are much higher if you can stay for an entire year. The maximum is for as long as your work visa allows.

10. **What kind of people are you looking for?**
We are looking for people with at least two years of relevant work experience as carp[enter, who hard working, flexible, good at communicating with others and who really want to learn about the industry here in Canadian.
11. **Can I ask for a promotion or advance in the company?**
We advise the see the first 3 months of your placement as your probation period where you have to prove yourself. It is not very uncommon that company owners will notice your commitment and might give you more meaningful projects. But this will of course also depend on the company, their projects and your qualifications.
12. **Can I go with a friend or partner?**
It might be easier to find a suitable placement for you, due to the fact that many host organizations are rather smaller than larger. Keep also in mind that your friend or partner will have to have similar qualifications to be placed in the same company.
13. **What if I am offered a placement I don't want?**
During the application process we will present you with a variety of placement options based on your professional background, additional qualifications, career and personal goals. Before a job interview you will receive a link to the company website, which you can check. Even after your chat with the company you can still get back to us and ask for an alternative. However, the more flexible you are the quicker you will get a position.
14. **What if I accept the placement but do not like it?**
If you find yourself in a situation where the placement is not what you have expected we advise to contact us immediately. Keep in mind that the industry in Canada might work different compare to what you are use to in your home country. Therefore some irritations you might experience can easily be solved. If the problem is more serious and your work permit allows you to change employer we will do our best to find a solution. We however would like to inform you that this more flexible permit is not available to every candidate. Depending on the permit available to you, you might find yourself in the position where you can not switch employer.
15. **What happens if I lose my placement or I am fired?**
If you have an Open Working Holiday Permit you are free to stay in the country however INTERNeX holds no responsibility for finding you another position or any other support. If you have a visa where your job is tied to your visa then we are obliged to inform immigration.
16. **What temperatures can I expect during the season?**
 - a) Canada Summer 15 - 30 degrees Celsius but on average it is about 20 - 25 degrees
 - b) Canadian Winters can be very cold. Temperatures may reach – 30 degrees Celsius but the average temperature is about 5 degrees Celsius in most resort locations.
20. **When should I apply for the program?**
During the summer season it is almost impossible to find a placement for you. However if you are planing to come to Canada in a year from now it is advisable to apply as soon as possible, because some employer might already start looking for new candidates in October / November.
21. **Will I need to have insurance?**
It is compulsory for all foreign applicants to purchase medical insurance covering them for the duration of their employment, regardless of whether or not you think you may be eligible for company benefits.

22. What do I do when I arrive?

You will receive a detailed arrival package before you get on the plane; this will go over all the information you need to get started. If you have any questions in addition to this, please feel free to contact INTERNeX or your agent.

23. How do I get to the placement?

Depending on the location of the host organization you will either have to take a bus or go by plane. In some situations we will have to make additional travel arrangements when you arrive in Vancouver. We do our best to make those arrangements before you leave your home country, but also like to secure that someone can pick you up at the final destination and therefore might need to coordinate with them closer to the actual arrival date.

24. How do I find accommodation?

It is not very uncommon that the host organization will provide or help with a temporal solution, if they do not have their now accommodation options. As soon as you are at your final destination you will have the opportunity to look for something more permanent and in many cases will also get the support from the host company.

25. Will I get time off work?

Yes, you will definitely get free-time, however you should keep in mind that you will work more hours during the summer season and may not guaranteed any holidays during your placement period. Should you need time away from the placement then you can ask your boss. All time off should be requested when it is less busy.

26. What do things cost in Canada?

Canada is not a cheap country and during your program so you should also have money saved for additional spending in case your salary does not cover all of your expenses. Following is an estimate of fees; these can change dramatically and differ according to location.

- Groceries per week: Minimum \$50 (\$200 - \$300 per month)
- Entrance to a club: \$15
- Beer at a Pub / Club: \$6-\$8
- A Big Mac Burger: \$4.00
- A Starbucks Tall Café Latte: \$3.50
- Skis / Snowboard \$350, Ski Boots / Snowboard Boots \$350, Trousers & Jacket \$350, Gloves: \$100, Goggles: \$100, Helmet: \$100, Thermal Underwear: \$100
- A 15% tip or gratuity should be added to all purchases at a restaurant or pub

37. What tax should I pay and which can I get back home?

Income Tax is the percentage of your income that is collected by the government. Personal income tax is payable at the time the income is earned, and your employer should deduct tax at source at the required rate. If you have paid too much tax, or too little!! you should file an income tax return. For the year ended as at December 31 the deadline for filing a personal tax return is 30 April of the following year. When you work, you will receive an "information slip". This is prepared by your employer, and is usually sent to you in February - March of the following year. Tax advantages of being a non resident decrease after staying more than 183 days, more information can be obtained from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency at: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/nrsdnts/ndvdl/nrs-eng.html> We generally recommend www.taxback.com as the easiest option.