

Social Insurance Number

Information for Newcomers

Service Canada provides individuals with a single point of access to a wide range of Government of Canada programs and support for newcomers in Canada.

What is a Social Insurance Number?

The Social Insurance Number (SIN) is a nine-digit number that is required to work in Canada. As a newcomer, it is your responsibility to apply for your SIN.

What do I need to apply?

To apply for a SIN, you must provide identity documents:

1. An original valid **primary identity document** that proves your identity and your legal status in Canada, such as:



A Permanent Resident Card or a Confirmation of Permanent Residence, issued by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC); or



A work permit; or
A study permit, which indicates the permit holder “may accept employment” or “may work in Canada, issued by IRCC; or
A visitor record showing that you are authorized to work in Canada, issued by IRCC; or



A diplomatic identity card and a work authorization, issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development.

2. An original valid **secondary document** to confirm your identity, such as a passport or a provincial or territorial identification issued by a Canadian Government (federal, provincial or territorial).



A passport, (Canadian or foreign)



A single journey travel document



A provincial or territorial health card

Note: Complete your full name on the application form as it appears on your primary identity document. A **supporting document** may be required if the name on your primary identity document is different from the name on your secondary document or SIN application form.

For more information about the documents required to apply for a SIN, visit Canada.ca → Jobs → Apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN) → Apply.

How do I apply?

- Applying **online** is easy. Submit a SIN application online within a secure and protected environment using the eSIN portal at sin-nas.canada.ca/en/Sin/ and upload digital copies of your documents.

Please consult the **[Social Insurance Number – Required documents](#)** page to ensure you have all the required documents ready before you apply.



Use your smartphone camera and scan this QR code to be immediately directed to the online SIN application.

- You can also apply for your SIN **by mail**. If you choose this option, you must provide a completed and signed [SIN application form](#) in addition to your original documents.

Your original documents will be sent back once your application is processed.

- If you are unable to apply **online** or by **mail** you have the option to apply **in person** and bring all original documents required with you.

If you chose to apply in person, we strongly recommend that you book an appointment prior to your visit by using the Service Canada online [service request form](#) available at: eservices.canada.ca/en/service/

Next steps?

If you apply in person, your SIN will normally be issued instantly. If you apply online, you will receive your confirmation of SIN within 15 business days and if you apply by mail, within 25 business days.

If you have not receive your SIN within that timeframe, please contact the Social Insurance Number program at 1-866-274-6627.