

Social Insurance Number

Information for new people in Canada

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). Examples:



A passport, (Canadian or foreign)



A single journey travel document



A provincial or territorial health card or driver's license

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/social-insurance-number (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 canada.ca/social-insurance-number and upload digital copies of your documents.

Please consult the ‘Required documents’ section of the page to ensure you have all the required documents ready before you apply.



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

You can provide your email address during the SIN online application to receive an email notification to advise you of the status of your file. You will receive the first notification when the application has been received by Service Canada, and a second one, within five business days once the application has been processed. If your SIN application is processed successfully, you will also receive your SIN Confirmation Letter by mail.

Register for My Service Canada Account!

If you apply for your SIN online, you will be able to view your SIN confirmation within the secure digital channel My Service Canada Account (MSCA), **as soon as it is processed, within five business days.** You will also receive your SIN confirmation letter by mail.

For more information, visit Canada.ca/my-service-canada-account (Canada.ca → Under Most requested section → Sign into an account → Under Service Canada → My Service Canada Account).

If you have not received your SIN within 10 business days, please contact the Social Insurance Number program at 1-866-274-6627.

- If you are unable to apply online, you have the option to apply in person. Bring all original documents required with you.
- 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.

To download an application form and apply for your SIN by mail, visit servicecanada.gc.ca → Under the ‘Most requested’ section → Forms → In the Search box, type “NAS2120” then click Enter.

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