

Questions and Answers

International Skilled Worker Expression of Interest System

Ministry of Immigration and Career Training

1. Who will use the Expression of Interest (EOI) system?

The EOI system will be used by persons who want to apply to the SINP through the Occupations in Demand or Express Entry sub-categories. These are two very popular sub-categories that required the use of application thresholds in the past to make sure that the SINP had a manageable application inventory that results in competitive processing times.

2. When do the changes come into effect?

The EOI system will launch on July 16, 2018 at 10:00 am CST.

3. What is an EOI system?

An EOI is the first step for individuals interested in applying to become permanent residents in Saskatchewan. They use the EOI system to show they are interested in applying to either the Occupations in Demand or Express Entry sub-categories under the SINP.

Candidates will register in the SINP's online system and complete an online EOI profile. As part of this profile, candidates will enter basic information about themselves including name, date of birth, home country and email address and then self-assess using the SINP point assessment grid.

Once the profile has been completed, the candidate will submit their expression of interest and be entered into a candidate pool.

Candidates that meet EOI selection criteria will be selected from the EOI candidate pool by the SINP, through an EOI draw, and they will receive an Invitation to Apply to the SINP. At this point, applicants will be asked to submit additional information and documentation in order to submit a complete online application, as well as pay the non-refundable application processing fee of \$350.00 Canadian dollars.

Note that as July 22, 2019, the non-refundable application processing fee is increased from \$300 to \$350.

4. What are the SINP's EOI selection criteria?

The EOI selection process will use a sequence that begins by identifying those with the highest [point scores](#). If too many candidates have the same or equal point score to meet the EOI draw's desired number of candidates, then further selection criteria will be applied – connections to the province; work experience; and official language ability. Among those with equal scores, candidates with connections to Saskatchewan will be chosen first. These are people who receive points for having a close family relative in Saskatchewan; and/or past work experience in Saskatchewan; and/or past student experience in Saskatchewan.

If there continues to be too many potential candidates with equal scores, those with the highest number of years of work experience and highest language scores will be selected.

This selection process will enable the province to invite candidates to apply that have the highest likelihood of settlement success due to higher levels of human capital and settlement support or experience. Past study or work experience, as well as family support, are positive factors for successful settlement in Saskatchewan. In addition, language ability is an important determinant for successful settlement and those who possess strong work experience will be well-suited for success in Saskatchewan's labour market.

The range of point scores and a description of the attributes of the group of candidates chosen in the draws will be shown on the EOI webpage at: www.saskatchewan.ca/worker-eoi

5. What is the pass mark for the EOI points test?

The number of points required to be eligible for the SINP is 60 out of 100 on the [point assessment grid](#). For EOI, it is the same points test as the SINP application points test. There have been no changes to the point assessment grid.

6. How is an EOI profile created?

All that is required to create an EOI profile is an account in the SINP's online application system (OASIS), and basic information about you and your qualifications. This includes contact information and information about your education, work experience, age, official language ability, and connections to Saskatchewan.

You can access a guide that explains the steps at: www.saskatchewan.ca/worker-eoi

7. How does this change the application process?

Rather than submitting an application when the application threshold is open, Invitations to Apply (ITA) to the SINP will be sent to those who have submitted an eligible EOI and have been selected. The points scores associated with an EOI profile will determine the likelihood of receiving an invitation. Those with high scores within the pool of candidates will have a greater chance of being invited to apply.

New applications to these sub-categories can't be created in the online system until EOI candidates are invited to apply. After you are invited to apply, you will have 60 days to submit a completed application to the SINP.

It is recommended that you have all the required information and documentation ready for your application, prior to being invited to apply. This will ensure that you are ready to apply quickly, if you are invited, and your application can begin to be assessed by the SINP as quickly as possible.

8. If I already have an application created that is pending, do I need to create an EOI profile?

Yes, in order to apply to the Occupations in Demand or Express Entry sub-categories on and after July 16, 2018, you need to create an EOI profile. To do this, you can use your existing SINP online account. You can access a guide that explains the steps at:

www.saskatchewan.ca/worker-eoi

9. If I'm invited to apply, can I use the pending application in the system that I've already filled out and was waiting to submit?

If you are invited to apply to the SINP from the EOI pool, you will be able to access the "Applicant Details" for your previous pending application. This means that you will have access to the following: disclosure forms, citizenship information, birth documents, passport information, marital status information, education records, work experience information and language test results. You will need to fill out the remainder of your new pending application and attach applicable documents, including: Settlement Funds, Family records, information related to Connections to Saskatchewan, and Federal Forms. After this, you will need to review for completeness and pay the application fee in order to submit your new pending application.

You must ensure that your application is fully completed with the required documents. (Please refer to the required documents checklist for a complete list of all documents to include.)

“Applicant Details” for pending applications submitted into the system prior to the implementation of the EOI will be accessible to applicants **after** they are invited to apply to the program.

10. What happens if I can’t apply within 60 days of being invited to apply?

Once you are invited to apply, your EOI profile will be removed from the EOI pool. If you don’t apply within 60 days, your Invitation to Apply will expire. You will need to create a new EOI profile if you remain interested in applying to the SINP.

11. What happens if the EOI point score, which an EOI candidate claims, is not accurate?

Upon application to the SINP, if an applicant is found to have completed the EOI profile and self-assessment fraudulently, they will be refused and prohibited from reapplying to the SINP for a period of two years.

If applicants are assessed by the SINP as having a lower point score than their self-assessed point score and they made an authentic mistake regarding their self-assessment, their application will not be processed and it will be returned. This will be done to be fair to other candidates in the EOI pool who had accurate or higher point scores and were not selected. However, the applicant will be able to resubmit a new EOI profile and be considered for future Invitations to Apply.

12. Will there be application thresholds when the SINP is re-opened? Will there be another application intake after the EOI is implemented?

No, there will be no thresholds for the pool of candidates.

Going forward, applications will only be accepted for these two sub-categories if the applicants have been invited to apply through the EOI system.

13. What happens to those Expression of Interest candidates that are not selected from the pool? What does it mean that EOI profiles are only valid for one year? Can individuals reapply?

Candidate profiles entered into the candidate pool that are not invited to apply will be removed from the pool after one year, at which time you are able to resubmit a profile if you choose to do so. This allows the SINP to eliminate profiles of people who are no longer interested in applying. The one year timeline begins when the EOI is submitted. After one year, your EOI profile status will show as expired.

14. Can EOI profiles be updated? How is this done?

Yes, while an Expression of Interest is active, profiles can be updated with new information, saved and resubmitted. The expiry date for your EOI profile will be one year after you submit or resubmit your profile. For example, an individual can improve their score and increase their chances of receiving an invitation by:

- improving their language score by taking additional tests; or
- gaining more work experience.

15. How many people will be invited at each draw? How often will draws occur?

The size and frequency of draws will be determined by the needs of the SINP application inventory. To begin with, draws will take place on a monthly basis, at minimum. The dates of the draws will not be communicated but the results will be.

The range of point scores and a description of the attributes of the group of candidates chosen in the draws will be shown on the EOI webpage at: www.saskatchewan.ca/worker-eoi

16. Can individuals have a profile for both the Express Entry and Occupations In-Demand sub-categories?

If an individual's profile or situation changes, it may not necessary to submit a new EOI. Instead, they can revise their existing profile by logging into the SINP Online Application System and making any necessary changes. Once revised, any changes in their point score information will be reflected in their account.

17. What happens to applications that have already been submitted?

Any applications received by the SINP prior to the launch of the EOI system will be processed to completion. Existing applicants, who have already submitted a SINP application (received and accepted by the SINP), will not be required to complete an EOI profile in order to have their application processed.

18. Will there be a limit on the number of EOIs the SINP will accept in the candidate pool?No,

there is no limit to the number of EOI profiles the SINP will accept in the pool.

19. Will there be a list of eligible occupations for EOI?

Yes, the [list of Occupations In-Demand](#) will still be used to determine which occupations are eligible.

20. Will the introduction of this EOI system change any SINP program requirements?

No, the introduction of the EOI system will not be accompanied by any changes to the program's requirements, other than the new [list of Occupations In-Demand](#).

21. Is there a fee to submit an EOI or application?

No, there is no fee to submit an EOI. However, those invited to apply to either the Express Entry or Occupations In-Demand categories will be required to pay the \$350 non-refundable application processing fee. This must be paid at the time an application is submitted. Note that as of July 22, 2019 the non-refundable application processing fee increased from \$300 to \$350.

22. Why has the SINP changed the process? How is this an improvement from the former process?

a) More fair and predictable for clients:

The SINP will no longer have application intake thresholds for these two sub-categories, which means that applicants will no longer have to wait for the threshold to be open to submit an application. There is no time pressure to submit the EOI because the EOI pool is always open and available.

With the former application intake thresholds, there was significant urgency for applicants to submit their applications before the quota was filled. Sometimes it was filled in a matter of hours and many applicants were not even aware that it had been opened. If the date and time that the intake threshold was going to be opened was posted beforehand, the big influx of applications would cause the system to malfunction. Without advance notice and with quick intake periods, we heard that clients found the process to be unfair and unpredictable.

Top EOI candidates will be regularly invited based on the SINP's processing needs. Information about EOI draws will be posted on the website.

b) Faster processing times:

The EOI system will allow invitations to be made on a regular basis, ensuring that applications are received as required by the program, preventing application backlogs. Further, this ensures that the applications received will begin assessment shortly after submission.

You can find the current processing times at [Application Processing Times](#).

c) Better settlement and integration outcomes:

Those invited to apply will have received invites because they possess high human capital (e.g., official language ability, education, and work experience) within the EOI pool and have a greater likelihood of successful settlement and labour market outcomes.

d) Improved program effectiveness:

The federal government has experienced higher approval rates for applications within their Express Entry system. If the SINP selects applicants with a higher likelihood of being approved, it will enable the SINP to increase the number of nominations and better help the province in addressing labour market needs. This will also help improve application processing times.

23. Where can I find out more information?

Please visit our website at: www.saskatchewan.ca/worker-eoi