

# International Experience Canada (IEC): An Overview – SWAP USA

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Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) is a youth mobility program that allows **US citizens**, who are between **18 – 35 years old**, to apply through SWAP for a preliminary acceptance to the International Experience Canada (IEC) program. US citizens must first complete an application through one of the following SWAP partners:

- FROSCH Travel: <https://www.froschstudenttravel.com>
- International Exchange of North America (IENA): <http://www.iena.org>
- Interexchange: <https://www.interexchange.org>
- BUNAC USA: [www.bunac.org/usa](http://www.bunac.org/usa)

Depending on the SWAP partner that you choose, the applications forms will need to be completed manually or online.

Please review the requirements of the SWAP partner that you choose and review the application costs/fees that are payable to the SWAP partner for inclusion in the SWAP program.

All applications to SWAP also require proof of savings of \$2500 (bank account statement) and travel medical insurance (please refer to websites of the SWAP partners for a full list of the required documents).

The IEC is a multistep process. Once accepted by SWAP, applicants must submit an online profile into a pool of candidates with Citizenship, Refugees and Immigration Canada ("IRCC"). From the pool of candidates, individuals will be periodically selected and be sent an Invitation To Apply ("ITA"). It is only after receiving an ITA that an individual may submit an application for a work permit to IRCC. However, it is our understanding that having an approval from SWAP should provide for an ITA from IRCC fairly soon after the applicant sets up their online profile.

## **Step 1: COME TO CANADA WIZARD**

The first step to obtaining a work permit under this category is to complete the Come to Canada questionnaire: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/come-canada-tool.html> which includes the following series of questions:

1. What would you like to do in Canada? – **IEC Travel and Work**
2. How long are you planning on staying in Canada? – **Answer as applicable, generally the answer is temporarily- less than 6 months**
3. What is the country of your passport? – **USA**
4. What is your current country of residence? – **USA** (Do not select Canada even if you are in Canada)
5. Do you have a family member who is a Canadian citizen/permanent resident? – **Answer as applicable**
6. What is your date of birth? – **Answer as applicable**
7. Do you have a letter proving one of these organizations will help you plan your trip or find work in Canada? – **YES**
8. Select the name of the organization helping you plan your trip or find work in Canada. – **SWAP Working Holidays**

Click Continue – the system will provide you with a **Personal Reference Number (listed under Step 5) – please copy this Personal Reference Number as you will need for the next step.** Click on "Register to get a Key" under Step 3.

## **Step 2: Register to set up MyCIC (GCKey)**

MyCIC GCKey requires that an applicant select a username and password as well as set up a series of security questions for his/her account, in order to retrieve login details. Click "Continue to GC Key" and "Sign Up" to set up an account.

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The applicant will need to set up another series of security questions which will be required each time he/she logs in. The steps to create an application are as follows:

1. Under “What would you like to do today?” select International Experience Canada and click “Continue”.
2. On the next screen, enter personal reference code generated in the Come To Canada questionnaire
3. Set up profile

Set up of profile:

1. Enter the requested biographical details under “Personal Details”
2. Enter information requested under “Contact Details”
3. Answer **YES** to the question about wishing to be entered into the pool of candidates for this category under “Application Details”
4. “Name of the organization helping you plan your trip or find work in Canada” should be pre-populated with “SWAP Working Holidays”
5. “Work and Education Details” should be pre-populated

Once all of the above fields have been completed, please select “Continue” and follow the prompts to submit application.

Shortly after submitting an application, the applicant should receive a message confirming that he/she been added to the pool of candidates to receive an ITA. After receiving your ITA, an applicant will then complete an application for a Canadian work permit. The work permit application requires an IEC participation fee of CAD\$150 and an open work permit application fee of CAD \$100.