EXPRESS ENTRY

Category-based selection

Researchers with Canadian work experience

Eligible Occupations - 2026 Edition

Important Disclaimer

This guide is for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal or immigration advice. Immigration rules change frequently. Always verify current IRCC requirements at canada.ca and consult a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) or licensed immigration lawyer for advice specific to your situation.

This reference document is designed to help you figure out whether your occupation might qualify under the Research category of Canada's Express Entry system. This category currently covers two NOC codes:

- **NOC 41200 – University Professors and Lecturers**
- **NOC 41201 – Post-Secondary Teaching and Research Assistants**

Both codes fall under TEER 1, meaning they typically require a university degree. The tables below list common job titles that may align with each code, along with plain-language descriptions of what each role involves.

NOC 41200 – University Professors and Lecturers

https://noc.esdc.gc.ca/Structure/NOCProfile?GocTemplateCulture=en-CA&code=41200&version=2021.0

Potential Eligible Job Titles

Job Title	Description
University Professor	Designs and delivers courses, leads research, and publishes academic work in a specific field
Associate Professor	Tenured faculty member conducting teaching and independent research at a university
Assistant Professor	Early-career faculty member teaching courses and developing a research program
University Lecturer	Teaches undergraduate or graduate courses, often with a focus on instruction over research
Adjunct Professor	Part-time or contract instructor hired to teach specific courses at a university
Visiting Professor	Temporary faculty position, often brought in for specialized expertise or exchange programs
Professor Emeritus	Retired faculty member who retains an honorary title and may continue limited academic work
Research Professor	University-based role focused primarily on conducting and publishing research
Department Chair (Academic)	Senior professor who also manages a university department or academic unit
Post-doctoral Researcher (faculty-track)	Researcher working under a professor while building toward an independent academic career
Teacher	Teacher's college

NOC 41201 – Post-Secondary Teaching and Research Assistants

https://noc.esdc.gc.ca/Structure/NOCProfile?code=41201&version=2021.0

This category is for people who support faculty members at colleges and universities. Rather than independently leading courses or research, they work alongside professors and instructors to help deliver education and carry out research projects.

These roles are common among graduate students, recent graduates, and early-career academics. They span both teaching support (helping in classrooms and labs) and research support (collecting data, running experiments, reviewing literature).

Potential Eligible Job Titles

Job Title	Plain-Language Description
University Teaching Assistant	Supports professors by leading tutorials, marking work, and helping students during office hours
College Teaching Assistant	Assists college instructors with course delivery, grading, and student support at the CEGEP or college level
University Research Assistant	Helps faculty carry out research tasks such as literature searches, data gathering, and lab work
Post-Secondary Research Assistant	Works within a university or college research project under the direction of a lead researcher
Graduate Assistant	Graduate student who takes on both teaching and research duties as part of their academic program
Laboratory Demonstrator	Guides students through lab experiments and demonstrates proper procedures and safety protocols
Laboratory Supervisor (TA role)	Oversees student lab sessions, ensures proper technique, and reports to the supervising professor
College Laboratory Assistant	Provides hands-on support during practical lab sessions at a community college or CEGEP
Discussion Group Leader	Facilitates small-group discussions linked to a course, helping students engage with course material
Marker / Grader	Reviews and grades student assignments, tests, or papers based on instructor criteria
Tutor (Post-Secondary)	Provides one-on-one or small group academic support to students in a specific subject area
University Laboratory Assistant	Maintains lab equipment, prepares materials, and assists during hands-on academic sessions

How to Check If Your Occupation Qualifies

Your job title alone won't determine eligibility — what matters most is whether your actual day-to-day responsibilities match the NOC description. Here's a simple way to check:

- Look up your job title on the official NOC website https://noc.esdc.gc.ca/
- Read the full description of the NOC code and compare it to what you actually do at work
- Check that the majority of your duties line up, a partial match is usually not enough (min 70% -80% match with your main duties)
- Make sure you meet the education and experience level indicated for that code (TEER 1 = university degree typically required)
- When in doubt, speak with a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) who can review your specific situation

Disclaimer

This document is meant to give you a starting point for exploring whether your occupation might fit the Research category of Express Entry. It is not legal or immigration advice. Your actual eligibility depends on your full profile, including education, language test scores, work experience, and other factors assessed by IRCC. Always verify with official government sources or consult a licensed immigration professional before making any decisions.

Still not sure if your occupation qualifies? I'd love to help you figure it out. Book a consultation and we'll go through your profile together, no guessing, just clear answers tailored to your situation.

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