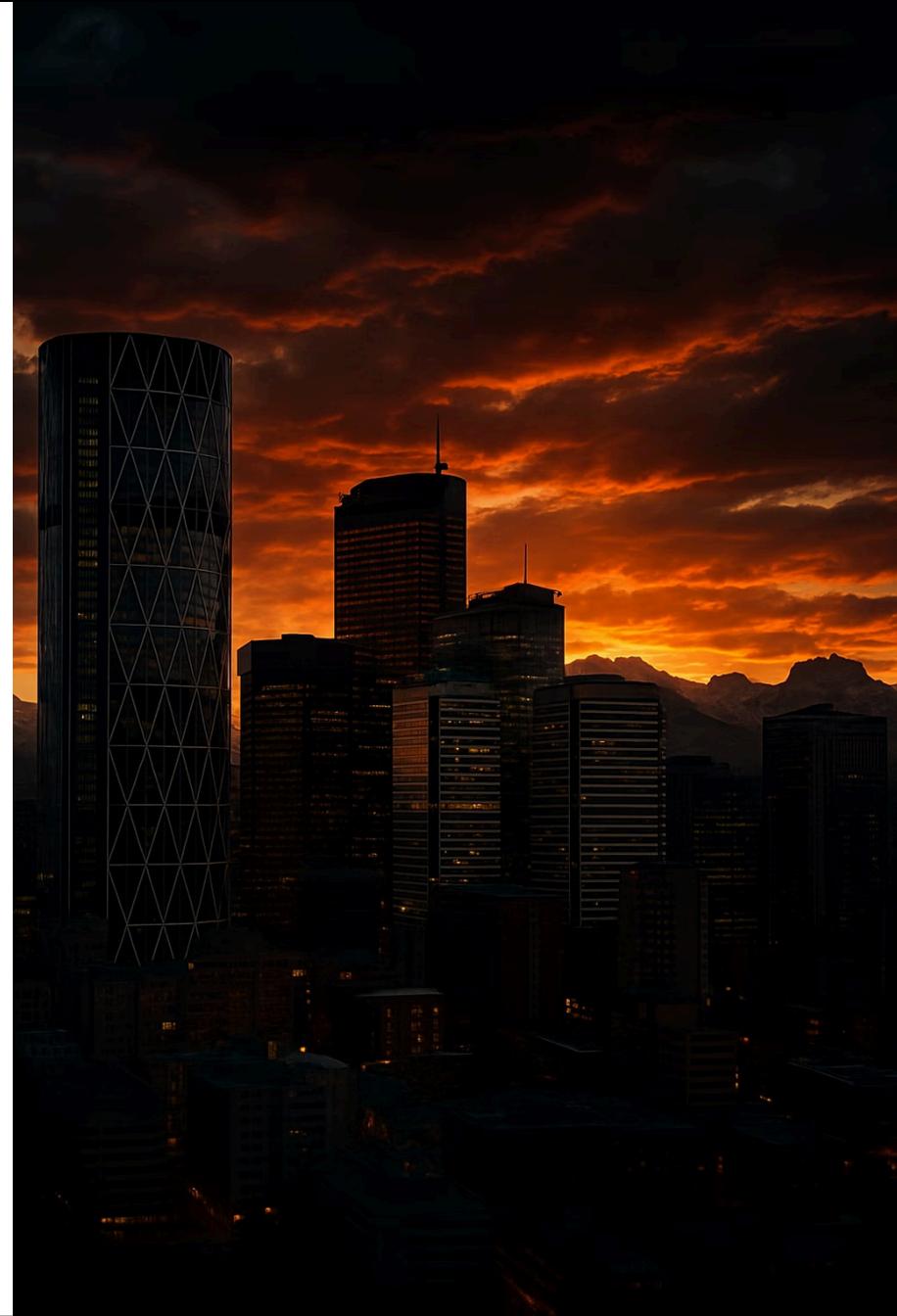


Is Alberta's Foreign Graduate Entrepreneur Stream Right for You?

A complete guide to understanding this unique pathway to Canadian permanent residency for foreign graduates with entrepreneurial ambitions.





Program Overview: The Two-Step Model

Step 1: Temporary Work Permit

If approved, you receive a work permit support letter to launch your business in Alberta.

Step 2: Permanent Residence Nomination

After running your business for 12+ months and meeting all targets in your Business Performance Agreement (BPA).

This structure shifts the risk to you—your immigration future depends entirely on your business success in its first year.



Key Eligibility Requirements

Education

Degree from institution outside Canada completed within last 10 years

Work Experience

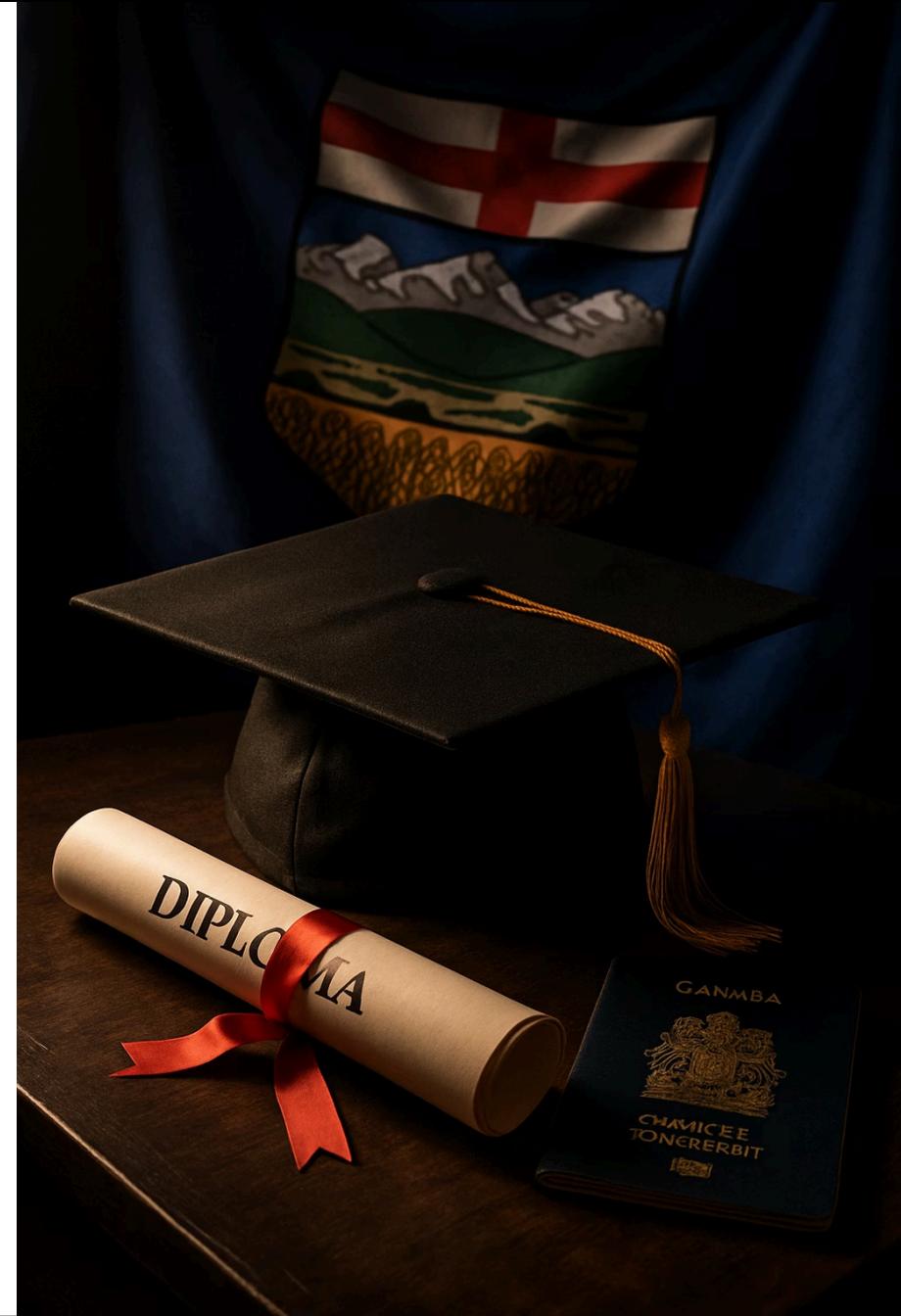
Minimum 6 months full-time experience (business ownership or relevant field)

Language

Minimum CLB 5 in all four abilities

Business Ownership

At least 34% (urban) or 51% (regional)





Financial Requirements

\$100,000... \$50,000

Urban Investment

Minimum investment for
Calgary/Edmonton

Regional Investment

Minimum for businesses
outside major centers

Additional Costs

- Designated agency fees (\$33,000-\$150,000+)
- Government application fees (~\$3,700)
- Settlement funds (varies by family size)
- Professional fees (legal/consulting)



Points Grid: Building a Competitive Profile

Language (30 pts)

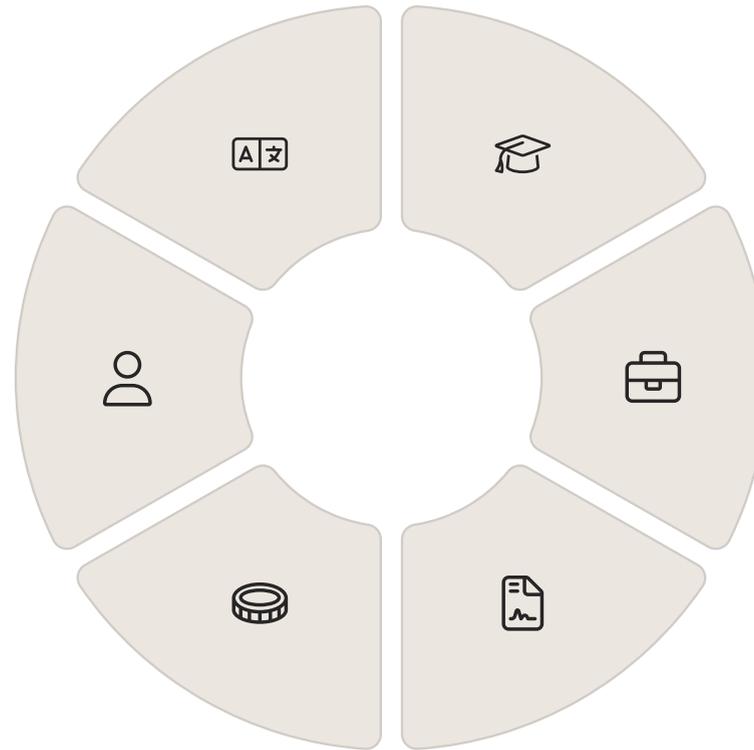
CLB 8+ maximizes points

Job Creation (15 pts)

3+ jobs maximizes points

Investment (45 pts)

Higher investment = more points



Education (35 pts)

Bonus for recent STEM/Business degrees

Business Experience (35 pts)

15-point bonus for business ownership

Business Plan (40 pts)

Most critical component



Application Process



Engage Agency

Contact Empowered Startups or Platform Calgary



Get Recommendation

Obtain mandatory Letter of Recommendation



Submit EOI

Create profile on AIP portal (\$200)



Receive ITA

If selected, submit full application (\$3,500)



Sign BPA

Sign Business Performance Agreement

Timeline from first contact to PR: Realistically 3-5 years



Priority Business Sectors

Technology

Aerospace

Financial Services

Energy

Agriculture

Tourism & Hospitality

Life Sciences

Manufacturing

⊗ **Ineligible Businesses:** Passive investments, property rentals, payday loans, coin-operated businesses, home-based businesses, seasonal operations, and succession plans.



FGES vs. Other Immigration Options

Program	Key Difference	Ideal Candidate
Alberta FGES	Performance-based PR; mandatory agency fees	Foreign graduates with traditional business ideas
Federal Start-Up Visa	Direct-to-PR; must be innovative	Tech entrepreneurs wanting PR security
BC PNP Entrepreneur	Higher requirements (\$200K investment)	Established entrepreneurs with significant capital
Ontario OINP	Highest barriers (\$200K-\$600K investment)	High-net-worth entrepreneurs targeting largest market



Key Risks to Consider

Performance-Based PR

If your business fails to meet BPA targets for any reason, you will not receive your nomination for permanent residence.

High Agency Costs

Mandatory designated agency fees can range from \$33,000 to over \$150,000—a significant hidden cost.

Limited Spots

Alberta allocates very few nominations to entrepreneur streams, making this a highly competitive program.





Is FGES Right for You?

The Alberta Foreign Graduate Entrepreneur Stream is a high-risk, high-reward pathway for a very specific type of person: a resilient, well-funded foreign graduate with a viable business plan and a high tolerance for uncertainty.

The program requires a deep, honest assessment of your:

- Finances and available capital
- Business idea viability in Alberta
- Risk tolerance and resilience
- Alternative immigration pathways