BC PNP Tech Pilot: FAQs

What is the BC PNP Tech Pilot?

- The BC PNP Tech Pilot is an initiative under the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) to support the tech sector in recruiting top international talent.

- The BC PNP Tech Pilot offers:

  o weekly "tech-only" invitations to apply (ITA) to qualified candidates working in one of 29 eligible tech occupations in B.C., as indicated in this document (applicants still need to register with the BC PNP)

  o dedicated concierge service for tech employers

  o priority processing for tech applications

  o targeted outreach and engagement with the tech sector

  o some flexibility with job offer duration (see below for details)

How long will the BC PNP Tech Pilot be offered?

- The BC PNP Tech Pilot is being extended to June 2021.

Job offer minimum requirement for eligible tech occupations

- Job offers under the BC PNP Tech Pilot must meet the following criteria:

  o the job offer must be for a single job **in one of the 29 occupations** eligible under the BC PNP Tech Pilot;

  o the job offer must be **at least one year in duration** (365 days); and

  o there must be **at least 120 calendar days remaining** on the job offer at the time of application

- Longer duration job offers, including indeterminate (permanent, or with no set end date) job offers, are also eligible.

How does the BC PNP Tech Pilot process work?

- You need to determine if your job offer is one of the 29 occupations listed as eligible. Then select which category would be the best fit for your application. More information regarding full category requirements can be found in our BC PNP Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC Program Guide.

- Once you have determined your category, register online with the BC PNP and you will receive a registration score. Registration is free.

- Every week, (subject to processing capacity), we will conduct a tech draw to invite the highest-scoring technology sector registrants to apply.

- If you are invited to apply, you have up to 30 calendar days from the date of invitation to submit a complete online application. The application requires a $700 processing fee at the time of online submission.

- We will process the application on a priority basis.

- If approved, you will receive a nomination certificate (confirmation of nomination) that you can use to apply for permanent residence with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada under the Provincial Nominee Class.

- Individuals who have been nominated and who meet the conditions of their nomination may receive a work permit support letter that allows them to apply for a new work permit, or renew their current work permit, allowing them to work throughout the permanent residency process.

Who can access the BC PNP concierge service?

- The BC PNP Tech Pilot key features are based on service, timeliness, prioritization, and closer engagement with the tech sector.

- A dedicated BC PNP concierge for all tech employers provides tailored information and navigation assistance of immigration programs and processes.

- All tech companies can access the BC PNP concierge by emailing PNPTechEmployers@gov.bc.ca.

How do I apply for the BC PNP Tech Pilot?

- The BC PNP Tech pilot is not a separate BC PNP stream or category.

- Applicants simply apply to the BC PNP under one of the existing categories. An applicant's eligibility for the Tech Pilot is based on the registrant/applicant's job offer (NOC).

- Refer to the Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC Program Guide for full details of the requirements for each category, and for information on the process to register and apply.

Do I need a job offer for the BC PNP Tech Pilot?

- Yes. All BC PNP categories, except the International Post-Graduate categories, require a job offer from a B.C. employer.

- Job offers must be for **at least one year (365 days)**, and the job offer must have **at least 120 days remaining** at the time of **application** to the BC PNP. For more information, please refer to the Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC Program Guide.

Where can I find a job in B.C.'s tech sector?

- The BC PNP is unable to assist potential applicants with their job search.

- The following websites may be helpful to get a start in your search for a job in the tech sector:

    o Work BC www.workbc.ca
    o Job Bank www.jobbank.gc.ca
    o BC Tech Association www.wearebctech.com
    o Techvibes www.techvibes.com
    o Digi BC www.digibc.org
    o Accelerate Okanagan www.accelerateokanagan.com
    o VIATEC www.viatec.ca
    o T-Net www.bctechnology.com

I am already working in one of the identified occupations. Do I need a new job offer?

- No. If you are already working in an eligible occupation, you may submit a registration with your current job offer. Job offers must be for at least one year (365 days), and the job offer must have at least 120 days remaining at the time of application to the BC PNP.

- If you are invited to apply, at the time of application assessment, we may contact you or your employer for more information.

- Please refer to our BC PNP Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC Technical guide for a list of required documentation.

Does my company have to be in the tech sector, or just have a tech occupation to be filled?

- The BC PNP Tech Pilot supports the attraction of skilled workers to satisfy the demand for tech talent by expanding the province's technology talent pool.

- In order to benefit from the BC PNP Tech Pilot, the job your company is offering must be one of the 29 eligible occupations.

Which occupations will be included in the weekly tech draws?

- We will issue weekly invitations to apply for registrants in 29 key technology occupations for all Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC categories.

- A full list of the 29 occupations can be found here on our website. Your application may be impacted if your job duties do not accurately reflect the NOC you have identified in your application.

- In order to be approved, applicants and supporting employers must meet all program requirements.

- More information about draws can be found on our [Invitations To Apply page](#).

My current occupation is very technology focused but is not on the list of 29 occupations. Can I be fast-tracked?

- You may still be eligible to apply to the BC PNP under one of our categories if your occupation isn't one of the [29 eligible occupations.](#)

- We will continue to conduct regular draws for qualified individuals across many different occupations based on the annual allocation and the program's processing capacity.

- For more information on the process, please visit the [Skills Immigration process](#) or [Express Entry BC process](#) pages.

I have submitted my registration but have not yet been invited to apply. After I registered, I have been promoted to one of the 29 eligible tech NOCs. What should I do?

- You will need to withdraw your existing registration and create a new one with your new position.

I have submitted my application but I have now been promoted to one of the 29 eligible tech NOCs? What should I do?

- You will need to contact us as soon as possible to let us know about the change in your position.

- Any changes to your application will need to be assessed to ensure it meets the criteria of the BC PNP Tech Pilot.

How long will it take for my tech application to be processed?

- Most applications are processed within two to three months.

- For complete applications under the BC PNP Tech Pilot, we will provide priority processing to meet the fast-paced demands of the sector.

- Processing times for permanency residency applications are the responsibility of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). View current [IRCC processing times](#) for more information.

Why are you doing this pilot for the tech sector?

- The BC Tech Association and the Vancouver Economic Commission conducted labour market research and developed a range of strategies to better understand and meet the tech sector's workforce needs.

- The research identified access to talent as the biggest issue facing the tech sector, posing the most significant barrier to economic growth.

- We are committed to supporting the tech sector's continued growth by removing barriers to their access to talent using the full array of immigration tools to attract and retain the technical skills needed in B.C.

Will you be offering similar pilots for other sectors?

- Results of the pilot will be used to determine if these operational enhancements have a positive impact and if this is the best approach to support other key sectors.

- Applicants and employers from other sectors who meet the criteria may still access the BC PNP. The BC PNP has different categories and requirements based on the applicant's qualifications, experience and the skill level of the job offered.

- More information can be found at our Pathways page.

Where can I find more information?

- If you are an employer in B.C.'s technology sector and have more questions, please contact the BC PNP concierge: PNPTechEmployers@gov.bc.ca

- Download our BC PNP Tech Pilot information sheet – for employers or our BC PNP Tech Pilot information sheet – for workers for a printable, high-level overview of the information.

- Refer to our BC PNP Skills Immigration and Express Entry BC Program Guide for information about our program criteria.

- Go to our process page for information about the registration process.

- Go to our invitations page for information about invitations to apply, including draw dates and the number and frequency of invitations.