



# Canada's Start-Up Visa Program

## What is Start-Up Visa?

- The Start-Up Visa Program provides permanent residence to foreign entrepreneurs who have the skills to build innovative businesses in Canada that can compete on a global scale

## Who can apply?

- Foreign entrepreneurs who have support for their business idea from a designated private-sector organization in Canada
- Designated organizations include:
  - Business incubators
  - Angel investor groups
  - Venture capital funds

There are more than **50** designated organizations participating in the Start-Up Visa Program

## What do entrepreneurs need to apply?

- Up to five applicants can apply as part of a team, but each applicant must own at least 10% of the company's voting rights
- Together, the applicants and the designated organization must also own more than 50% of the company's voting rights
- Applicants must have an intermediate level of proficiency in either English or French (set at Canadian Language Benchmark level 5 in speaking, listening, reading and writing)
- Applicants must prove that they are able to financially support themselves when they arrive in Canada

Dozens of start-ups have been launched in Canada with the help of the Start-up Visa Program.

## How to get started?

Visit [www.cic.gc.ca/startup](http://www.cic.gc.ca/startup) for more details.

- Support for their business idea from a designated organization means:
  - They are accepted into a designated business incubator program; or
  - They have an investment of at least \$75,000 from a designated angel investor group; or
  - They have an investment of at least \$200,000 from a designated venture capital fund

