



Obtain career advice from career development professionals, rather than from friends

Unsolicited advice comes easily when we start a new stage in our lives. For example, moving to a new place, becoming parents and looking for work. For this last one you will attract people's opinion especially if you are a newcomer to Canada. "Listen to all that information without asking the right questions and you'll end up confused," says Darlene Baker, career coach at Directions for Immigrants. "Sharing the same cultural and professional backgrounds does not necessarily mean that what didn't work for your friends is not going to work for you," says Darlene. Instead, she suggests you seek help from career development professionals. "They advise, coach, provide information and support people who are planning, seeking and managing their life and work direction," according to the Alberta

Learning and Information Service ([ALIS](#)) website.

When you meet with a career coach, ask them these questions and listen to their advice:

- How do I develop effective job search strategies?
- What are the steps to pursue accreditation in Canada?
- What do successful immigrant professionals do to find work?
- How can I explain my international experience to an employer?
- What resources are available to me?
- What are my next steps?

You will likely make a well-informed decision on your career planning in Canada, based on the up-to-date and accurate information you obtained from a career coach. If you are an internationally educated professional, and you are ready to have a conversation with a career coach, call us to book an appointment at 403-770-5155

Occupations A to Z

Insurance Broker



We help internationally educated professionals in any occupation in any industry. For this edition of the newsletter we are highlighting the occupation of Insurance Broker. "Insurance agents and brokers assess people's financial needs and advise them on how to protect themselves against financial loss. They may sell life, property, casualty, automobile or health insurance policies to individuals, businesses or public institutions," according to [ALIS](#). In Alberta, you must be licensed by the [Alberta Insurance Council \(AIC\)](#) to sell insurance. In most situations, internationally educated insurance brokers will be required to complete all of the steps that are required for a Canadian applicant. Visit the [Directions for Immigrants website](#) to learn about the registration process.



Accreditation

Changes in the accreditation process for internationally educated engineers

Since May 2018, The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) requires a competency-based assessment (CBA) as part of the application process for a Professional Engineer ([P.Eng](#)) or Licensee designation. Candidates have to demonstrate 22 key competencies in six categories. For more details, read the information on the [APEGA website](#). If you are an internationally educated engineer or geoscientist needing help to understand the licensing process as a P.Eng or P.Geo, call 403-770-5155 to book an appointment with a career coach at Directions for Immigrants.

Career Coaching Tip

Talk about your international experience



My best advice to show your international experience to an employer would be to network, network, network. Connecting with other professionals working in the industry gives you an opportunity to explain how your professional experience, if not exactly the same, is very similar to someone with local experience. Sometimes your resume can't explain that for you, but you certainly can. Also, talk to a career coach about how your skills can be utilized in jobs that are in demand in the current labour market.

Patrick Cotter, career coach at Directions for Immigrants



Rate of Success

At Directions for Immigrants we are happy to share a 80% success rate. A total of 1,988 people successfully passed a licensing exam.

**November is
Career Month**



November is Canada's Career Month! The Canadian Council for Career Development (3CD) Canada celebrates Career Month to feature events, advocacy initiatives and on-line activity aimed squarely at advancing our national focus on skills. The theme this year is "I Know I Can Because..." emphasizing the existing and abundant skills of Canadians.

Directions for Immigrants
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