



Preparing for Your Interview with the Canadian Embassy

As part of the application process for permanent residence to Canada, the Canadian Embassy in Lebanon has requested an in-person interview to assess your admissibility. Interviews can be used to clarify or verify information in your immigration application and ensure the Embassy has the most up-to-date information.

This document does not contain legal advice. It is a resource provided by Talent Beyond Boundaries to assist you.

Before Your Interview

Carefully review copies of all application forms and supporting documents that were submitted to the visa office on your case. Do your best to memorize the details. Pay attention to the following:

- Make sure that information in the application forms is correct and up-to-date. If you find mistakes in the application forms, please notify the visa officer prior to the interview;
 - If you notice mistakes in your personal story or you believe that some of the relevant events, incidents or dates are missing, please inform the visa officer immediately.
 - Is the family composition indicated in the forms still the same? If any changes (marriages, births or deaths) are not reflected in the application forms, please inform the visa office prior to the interview;
 - In the application forms ALL your immediate family members (parents, brothers, sisters, children) should be mentioned including those whose whereabouts are not known or who are considered deceased. If you notice that some of your family members (both accompanying and non-accompanying) are not included in the forms, please inform the visa officer immediately.

Possible interview questions:

- Personal information presented on your application:
 - Where are you from in "home country"?
 - What is your home address? How long have you lived there?
 - Do you have any children?
 - What is your current employment and how did you find it?
 - Have you used someone else's help in preparing your application?
 - Have you ever used any name besides your current name?
 - Can you tell us about any overseas travel you might have undertaken?

- Have you ever been treated for any severe mental or physical illness or any chronic disorder?
 - Why can you not provide “x” document? Ex. a police certificate
 - Please describe the job offer you received, including your work responsibilities listed and the interview process.
- Questions related to your refugee circumstances:
 - Why did you flee your home country?
 - When did you arrive to (current country of residence)?
 - Describe reasons for your (or your family member's) travel out of (current country of residence), including to your home country, since you arrived
 - Why did you choose to go to (current country of residence)?
 - Are your parents still living in your home country?
 - What is your military status?
 - When (if) did you last delay military service?
 - Did you participate in protests in your home country?
 - Were you engaged in any conflict in Syria?
 - Was your family involved in the conflict in Syria?
 - What is your opinion about the Syrian regime?
 - Did you use a weapon to defend yourself or your family?
 - What is your opinion about Armed resistance in Syria?
 - How did you pay for school (if applicable)?
 - What if your application to Canada is not approved?
 - What is your source of income?
 - How did you hear about TBB?
 - How will you pay for your plane ticket?
 - Has TBB helped cover most of our expenses in this process so far?
 - Has TBB given you any sort of loan? Do you have any debt?
- Questions about your ability to integrate in Canada:
 - Tell me about yourself.
 - Why do you want to move to Canada?
 - What do you want to do in Canada and what is your goal there?
 - Why did you decide to move to the Canadian province you chose?
 - Who will care for your extended family when in Canada?
 - Would you sponsor additional family members to Canada?
 - Please describe your typical working day and job responsibilities.
 - What do you see as the biggest challenge of immigrating to Canada?
 - Will anyone be helping you with your settlement in Canada?
 - What would you do if you lost your job and couldn't find a new one in Canada?
- Questions related to your knowledge of Canada:
 - How many Canadian provinces can you name?
 - Who is Canada's current prime minister?
 - Can you name some famous Canadians?
 - How many Canadian cities can you name?
 - What do you think is the cost of living in Canada?

- Do you have family or friends in Canada?

During Your Interview

The Canadian visa office will inform you of the date, time, and place of your interview. Do not miss your interview date. You should arrive at the specified location on the day and time given to you. You should not be late, try to arrive prior to the interview time. You will be interviewed by a Canadian visa officer. If you have requested an interpreter, the interpreter will also be in the room with you.

Note: Bring all documentation included in your immigration application. You will not be allowed to bring your cell phone at the interview. Any document on your phone that you wish to present to the interviewing officer must be printed out.

- Don't be afraid of the immigration officer who will conduct the interview. Always look at the interviewing officer when you speak. Try not to look down or at the ceiling too much.
- You should trust the visa officer and give complete and truthful answers to his/her questions. In addition, your answers should be clear and straight to the point.
- If you did not understand the question, do not be shy to ask the officer to repeat or rephrase this question for you.
- You should tell the truth, even if it sounds too simple or common-sense to you. Remember that declarations containing false information may result in an immigration application being rejected.

If you requested the help of an interpreter during the interview:

- Make sure that you understand the interpreter well and that you are understood in turn.
- Answer all questions clearly and break each answer in short parts, so the interpreter is able to translate every word you say. Remember that interpreters are not allowed to summarize your answer or omit any parts of your answer.
- Don't be afraid to speak truthfully in front of the interpreter, regardless of their religious, cultural, or ethnic background. The role of the interpreter is to help you and the visa officer understand each other. The interpreter cannot influence the decision of the visa officer.
- If you think that the interpreter made a mistake or omitted some of the information, inform the visa officer immediately. Don't be afraid to interrupt, if you need to correct a mistake made by the interpreter.
- If you are convinced that the interpreter is not doing a good job, inform the visa officer immediately. For example, if the interpreter does not speak exactly the same language or dialect as you, and that causes misunderstanding, you should politely ask for another interpreter immediately.
- Don't wait until the end of the interview to tell the visa officer that you think the interpreter made mistakes.
- If the officer or the interpreter mistakenly quotes you or misunderstands what you have said to them, don't be shy or afraid to correct them.

- If you are a woman and the interpreter is a man (or vice versa) and you do not feel comfortable talking about your personal experiences in front of them, don't be shy or afraid to tell the officer about that.¹

After Your Interview

- It is recommended that right after the interview you prepare a summary of your interview starting with the point when you entered the building where the interview took place along with the date and time. You may want to make a list of questions that you were asked by the officer and the answers that you gave.
- If you think that something went wrong during the interview, for example you forgot to mention some important facts, immediately inform the visa office in writing.

¹

<https://www.visaplace.com/blog-immigration-law/canadian-immigration-help/preparing-for-your-immigration-interview-plus-25-sample-questions/>
<http://www.rstp.ca/en/refugees/preparing-for-an-interview/>