



5

*TOP TIPS FOR
STRENGTHENING
YOUR SPOUSAL OPEN
WORK PERMIT
APPLICATION*

5 TOP TIPS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR SPOUSAL OPEN WORK PERMIT (SOWP) APPLICATION

1 USE THE DOCUMENT CHECKLIST Use the document checklist and gather the correct documents. The document checklist for this program may be found at: IMM 5556 E : Document checklist - Worker (in Canada applicant) The document checklist for a Spousal Open Work Permit is the same as for all other work permits. Gather your documents first and then move onto the next steps. You will find that, based on the following recommendations, even when you do this you will need to gather more documents as you prepare your application.

2 PROVIDE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE When you make an application for a visa, the burden of proof to show that you meet the program criteria is on you. This means that you, as the applicant are responsible for providing sufficient evidence to satisfy the assessing officer that you are not inadmissible, that you will leave by the end of your authorized stay, that you are eligible for the program to which you are applying (SOWP), are in a genuine relationship with a Temporary Resident that is here on valid status as a student or as a worker in a skill type 0, A or B. Visa officers should be able to make a decision based on the information available on the file. They should not have to fill in the blanks for the applicant and if they feel they have to then you may face a refusal.

3 PROVIDE RELEVANT EVIDENCE It is important that you provide supporting evidence for any statement that you make in support of your eligibility in your application. The evidence that you provide should be relevant and persuasive and should strongly lead the assessing officer to conclude that that particular aspect of program eligibility is met. For example, if you say that you have \$5000.00 CAD for your visit then be sure to include your bank statements (in English or French) and

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do the financial calculation for the officer if your funds are held in a different currency. As another example, if you are applying for a Spousal Open Work Permit, be sure to include your spouse's valid status document.

4 PROVIDE RELIABLE DOCUMENTS As well, the documents that are provided should be reliable. In assessing reliability, consider the following: Does the document appear to be a genuine document; Consider the source of the document; Does the author have an interest in the outcome; Is the document on letterhead with contact information; Is the document dated and signed; Is it document is an original document, or a good quality scan of an original document, a certified copy or a good quality scan of a certified copy? Can you provide the original? Was the document produced for the sole purpose of supporting the application; Does your document come from an expert or an institution? Is the person writing the document speculating; Is better evidence available, and if it is then why was it not provided? We see this for employment letters where the company has closed.

5 INCLUDE A LETTER OF EXPLANATION A letter of explanation is the piece of writing that ties your entire application together. This piece is vital to the success of your application because it allows you to explain any weak points and highlight all of the strong points of your application. It allows you to shape the application in the most favourable light and makes the application easier to assess.



Thank You!

I hope you found this top 5 list helpful for creating this very important application. I'd love to hear about the outcome of your application. Please let me know via the contact details below.

Annie McCaughey

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