

LINC

1. What is LINC?

LINC stands for Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada. The LINC program is one of the immigrant settlement services provided through the National Settlement Program. It is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and is free to students. LINC provides basic and intermediate level English training for adult newcomers to Canada.

2. What will I learn in LINC classes?

You will learn English to help you with all your communication needs. You will learn about Canadian laws, health care, society, job market and many things that are important for life in Canada. At the higher LINC levels you can prepare for further studies in English or raise your English level to qualify for training for employment. To work in Canada in your field or occupation, you may need to learn more English after the LINC class ends.

Eligibility

3. Who can take LINC?

You must be a newcomer to Canada, 17 years old or older, and approved for permanent residence. Canadian citizens, temporary visitors, temporary foreign workers and refugee claimants who have not yet received a positive decision on their refugee status claim **cannot** take LINC classes within Greater Vancouver and Greater Victoria Regional Districts. You must have at least **one** of the following documents:

- a) Permanent Resident Card
- b) Confirmation of Permanent Residence (form IMM5292)
- c) Record of Landing (form IMM1000 - issued prior to June 2002)
- d) Notice of Decision from the Refugee Protection Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) confirming convention refugee status
- e) Letter from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) giving approval to remain in Canada while application for permanent residence is being finalized (approval in principle)

The Program

4. What are the LINC levels?

LINC goes from level 1 (low beginner) to level 8 (high intermediate). There is also a pre-beginner level (literacy). After you apply for LINC, you will be given an appointment for an English assessment (test). At levels 5, 6, 7 and 8 there are general English classes and English for the Workplace classes.

5. What is the assessment for?

The Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Test (CLBPT) is designed to determine at what level you should begin your LINC program. It measures abilities in listening, speaking, reading and writing. For example, if you score benchmark 3 in each of these skills, you are ready to start the program at LINC level 4.

The LINC assessment is only for the purpose of placement into the LINC program. It is not accepted by CIC as proof of language ability for citizenship applications. For this, you can take LINC classes and get a certificate from your LINC

school, or take one of the other tests accepted by CIC – IELTS or CELPIP. These tests are not administered by the LINC assessment centre.

6. Where are LINC classes offered?

There are LINC classes in more than 40 different schools in Greater Vancouver, the Fraser Valley and other parts of British Columbia. After your assessment, the assessment office can show you where the classes are in your area, the class levels, class types, class times and waitlist information. You can choose which school to attend, depending on availability.

7. What are LINC class times?

Classes can be in the morning, afternoon and evening. Full-time classes are usually 25 hours a week. Part-time classes are usually between 9 and 15 hours a week. Most classes operate Monday to Friday, but some classes have a combination of evenings and Saturdays, and others may have on-line components.

8. What are the attendance rules?

Your school will tell you about their attendance rules. Students are expected to attend all or almost all of their classes, and to attend on time. Do not apply for LINC if you cannot attend on all the days when the class meets.

9. What can I do about child care?

Some LINC schools have free child care for pre-school age children. There are not very many spaces. Many LINC students have to make their own child care arrangements. There is a provincial child care subsidy to help families pay for child care. Go to an immigrant settlement agency in your area for more information.

How to Apply

10. How can I apply for LINC?

Write, telephone, fax or go to one of these offices to get an application form.

For people living in Vancouver, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Richmond, South Delta, Burnaby or New Westminster, apply to:

Western ESL Services
LINC Assessment and Referral Centre
#208 – 2525 Commercial Drive
Vancouver, BC V5N 4C1
Tel (604) 876-5756 Fax (604) 876-0134

For people living in Surrey, North Delta, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Maple Ridge or the Fraser Valley, apply to:

Surrey Language Assessment Centre
LINC Assessment and Referral Centre
#202 – 7337 137th Street
Surrey, BC V3W 1A4
Tel (604) 507-4150 Fax (604) 507-4155

People living in other areas may apply directly at the school in that area which offers LINC classes..

Send or bring the completed application form and a photocopy of your immigration document (see *ELIGIBILITY*). If you are using your Permanent Resident Card, photocopy both sides.

The name on your application must be the same as the name on your immigration document. When you come to the office for your assessment, bring your original immigration document (not a photocopy).

11. When should I apply for LINC?

Apply when you are ready to start studying. The LINC assessment is valid for 12 months. You may not take the LINC placement assessment more than one time per year.

12. What happens after I apply?

You will get a letter telling you the time and place for your assessment. You must have this assessment before you can go to LINC classes.

13. What happens after the assessment?

You will get an assessment report with your test results and your LINC level placement. You can take this assessment report and your immigration document to a LINC school to register for class. If you need help with choosing a school, you can speak to a referral counselor at the assessment centre, who can show you where the schools are located, and information on their class types, levels, start dates, times and waitlists.

14. When do LINC classes start?

Most schools start new students at the beginning of the month. Students may be placed on a waiting list.

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)

(British Columbia – Lower Mainland)

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