



Canada Start-Up Visa (SUV) – Required Steps & Documents Checklist

Bluewater Immigration is a premier immigration consultancy specializing in citizenship, permanent residency, and investment-based immigration for high-net-worth individuals, entrepreneurs, and skilled professionals across the globe. It provides guidance on various visa, residency, and citizenship programs.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

☐ Self-Assess

Take a candid look at your business idea and personal qualifications. Do you have an innovative concept with global market potential? Are you able to meet the basic program requirements? Is it just you, or do you have co-founders who complement your skills? Most importantly, are you prepared to commit the time, effort, and resources this journey entails? If these fundamentals are in place, you're ready to proceed to the next step.

☐ Speak to Bluewater Immigration

*Knowledge is power. Visit Bluewater's website for detailed information on the Start-Up Visa (SUV) program and related options. You can also **book a one-on-one consultation** to evaluate your eligibility, discuss available pre-approved projects in our portfolio, and get answers to any specific questions you have. This personalized discussion will provide clarity and a tailored game plan for your immigration journey.*

☐ Prepare Your Pitch

*Bluewater's team can assist you with market research, refining financial projections, and honing your pitch to make it investor-ready. Identify what makes your product or service unique and highlight the size of the problem you aim to solve along with the market opportunity. Pinpoint what resources or support you need from investors or incubators. **(If you already have an initial pitch or business plan, that's a great starting point which we can help you expand upon.)***

☐ Engage a Designated Organization

*With our guidance and network, begin pitching your idea to potential backers. We will introduce you to vetted venture capital funds, angel investor groups, or incubators that align with your sector and needs. Work on negotiations and, ultimately, obtain a **Letter of Support** from a designated organization – this document is crucial for your visa application.*

☐ Compile Documents and Apply

Once you have a Letter of Support in hand, it's time to incorporate your company and gather all the required paperwork (see the official document checklist for the Start-Up Visa program). Bluewater's immigration specialists will help organize your application for submission through the IRCC portal, making sure nothing is overlooked. You'll need to pay the IRCC fees and upload all forms and supporting documents as instructed. If you have co-founders applying as part of your start-up team, we'll coordinate to ensure everyone submits their materials around

the same time to avoid delays.

☐ **Relocate and Launch**

After your application is approved, move to Canada and satisfy any residency obligations while you focus on scaling your company. Use the entrepreneur open work permit to gain local work experience and build networks in Canada while you await your permanent residence (PR) confirmation. This is the time to fully launch your venture, adapt to the Canadian market, and set the foundation for long-term success.

DOCUMENTS TO COMPLETE

Always refer to the latest IRCC document checklist to prepare a complete dossier and avoid delays.

☐ **Passports and identity documents** for all applicants (valid passports, government-issued IDs).

☐ **Letter of support** from a designated organization (original letter and a copy).

☐ **Articles of incorporation and share register**, showing each founder owns at least **10%** of the company and that more than **50%** of the company's voting rights are jointly controlled by the founders and the designated organization.

☐ **Business plan** – including a clear problem statement, product/service description, market analysis, competitive advantage, financial forecasts, and projected job creation.

☐ **Language test results** (IELTS General, CELPIP, or TEF/TCF) demonstrating at least **CLB 5** proficiency or higher.

☐ **Proof of settlement funds** – recent bank statements or investment statements meeting IRCC's minimum **settlement fund** requirement (amount varies by family size).

☐ **Police certificates** from every country/jurisdiction where the applicant has lived for **6 months or more** since age 18.

☐ **Medical exam results** from an IRCC-approved panel physician (proof of completion of the immigration medical exam).

☐ **Completed immigration forms**: IMM 0008 (Generic Application), IMM 5669 (Schedule A – Background/Declaration), IMM 5406 (Additional Family Information), IMM 5562 (Travel History), IMM 5760 (Document Checklist), and IMM 0008 Schedule 13 (Start-Up Business Class – Business Details).

- ☐ **Photographs** meeting IRCC specifications (50 mm × 70 mm headshot, neutral expression, on a plain background).
- ☐ **Educational credentials** – copies of degrees/diplomas and transcripts, **and résumés** demonstrating relevant work experience for each key applicant.
- ☐ **Evidence of intellectual property** (e.g. patents, trademarks), and copies of any investor term sheets or shareholder agreements (if applicable).
- ☐ **Fee payment receipt** – proof of payment for the required IRCC application fees.

Maintaining an organized, clearly labelled file (with tabs or digital folders for each category above) will reduce the chance of IRCC requesting additional documents, which can prolong processing times.

By following these steps and leaning on professional support where needed, you can turn your ambitious idea into a thriving Canadian enterprise.

Your next chapter could start in Canada, and Bluewater Immigration is here to help you write that success story.