

Social Insurance Number (SIN) and Bank Account Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Two important pieces to getting started on your employment journey are having a Social Insurance Number and a bank account. Here are some frequently asked questions (FAQ) and information to get you set up.

What is a Social Insurance Number (SIN)?

SIN stands for Social Insurance Number. A SIN is a 9-digit number you are required to have to work in Canada, and it gives you access to government programs and benefits like Employment Insurance.

Important information about the SIN

- It is illegal to use someone else's SIN
- If you lose your SIN or it is stolen, you may not be given a new one. There needs to be proof of fraud for a new SIN. If lost, you can check income tax documents or other documents where your SIN is written.

What if my SIN starts with the number 9?

If you have a SIN that starts with the number 9, that means it's a temporary Social Insurance Number given to workers in Canada who haven't obtained Citizenship or Permanent Residency. These temporary SINS have an expiry date and are no longer valid after that date.

How do I get a Social Insurance Number (SIN)?

You can either apply online or by mail. You can apply once you are 12 or older. After you have applied (there is no fee to apply), you will receive a card in the mail with your number on it.

Direct contact information link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/contact/sin.html>

To know more about the SIN number, please visit the Service Canada website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin.html>

Important:

Keep your SIN number in a safe and secure place, and don't give it to anyone except employers.

Tip!



1. Avoid sharing your SIN through text or email. The safest way to share it is by phone or in person.
2. If you receive a call from 'someone' who 'works for the government' and asks you to provide your SIN number, hang up right away. This is a scam, public servants will not ask you for your SIN. Unless you have called a Canadian Government Department, they may ask for your SIN for identification purposes.
3. Employers won't ask for your SIN prior to the hiring and the interview. You will only be asked to provide it, after officially signing your contract.



What is a bank account?

A bank account is how a bank stores your money for you.

Why do you I need a bank account?

Most employers pay employees through direct deposit. Meaning instead of handing you a cheque or cash, they put the money directly into the “bank account”. You will have a bank card that can allow you to pay for things and take cash out of bank machines when you want to. It is recommended to get more information about budgeting and financial planning throughout your career and life stages.

What type of bank account should I open?

There are different types of accounts. The most common are chequing accounts and savings accounts. If you are under 18 years old, you will require authorization from your parents/guardians to open one, they will be named on the account. If you are over 18, you will need a valid ID to open an account.

How do I get one?

Most banks will allow you to apply for a bank account online or in person. Each bank will let you know what exactly you need to give them when you contact them to open an account.

Tip!

Before choosing a bank, do thorough research. Make sure to check the reviews and choose your account depending ON YOUR NEEDS.

Look at the different options, visit the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada website or make an appointment with a bank: <https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/services/banking/opening-bank-account.html>

IMPORTANT

When you open your bank account you will be given a card and be required to set up a personal identification number (PIN).

Do NOT give out or have your PIN number written down anywhere someone can see it. This is a private number only for you.

