

Old Age Security pension

Eligibility

To be eligible, you must:

- be 65 years of age or older;
- be a Canadian citizen or legal resident of Canada when your pension application is approved (or if you now live outside of Canada, have been a Canadian citizen or legal resident of Canada the day before you left the country); and
- have lived in Canada for at least 10 years since the age of 18 (or for 20 years if you now live outside of Canada).

How to apply

If you can be automatically enrolled for the Old Age Security pension, you will receive a letter from Service Canada informing you of this the month after you turn 64 years old. For information on automatic enrollment for Old Age Security pension, go to [Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca) and search for "automatic enrollment for OAS."

If you do not receive a letter from Service Canada the month after you turn 64 years old, you must complete, sign and mail the Old Age Security pension application (ISP3000) to Service Canada.

You should apply 6 to 11 months before your 65th birthday.

If you apply after you become eligible, you could receive a retroactive payment. The maximum retroactive payment is 11 months from the date Service Canada receives your application.

Required documents

Note

Service Canada staff can certify pension related documents for free. If you cannot visit a Service Canada office, the document [How to Certify Photocopies for the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security \(ISP1730\)](#) contains a list of professions whose members can certify documents.

If you were born in Canada, you do not need to provide proof of your date of birth. However, Service Canada has the right to request proof at any time.

If you were not born in Canada, you must provide certified copies of your citizenship or immigration documents.

If you cannot provide proof of legal status and residence documents, Service Canada could obtain on your behalf initial proof of entry into Canada and proof of legal status documents from Immigration, Refugees

and Citizenship Canada. To do this, you must complete, sign and mail the **Consent to Exchange Information with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (ISP3210)** to Service Canada.

If you have not lived continuously in Canada since the age of 18, you must provide proof of all the dates you arrived in or left Canada for periods of over six months. You can do this by providing certified copies of passports, visas, airline, ship and bus tickets, or other documents that prove your residence history in Canada.

Other useful information

If you have lived or worked in Canada and in another country, or you are the survivor of someone who has lived and/or worked in Canada and in another country, you may be eligible for pensions and benefits from both countries. For more information, go to Canada.ca and search for “**Lived or living outside Canada.**”

For more information

Click Canada.ca/OAS

Call 1-800-277-9914 (please have your Social Insurance Number available)

Visit a [Service Canada office](#)

Forms are available on Canada.ca. Search by form name or document number (e.g. ISP3000).

This document is available on demand in multiple formats by contacting 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232), teletypewriter (TTY), 1-800-926-9105.

Cat. No.: ISPB-354(8)-04-17

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