

Security Guard

A licence you can get in weeks, a job you can get at 18, and a way into policing if you want it.

TYPICAL PAY

\$44,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$34k to \$65k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 1 year

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Malls, hospitals, offices,
construction sites, events, transit**

How you get there

- 1 Be 18 and eligible to work** Right away
 Ontario requires you to be at least 18, legally entitled to work in Canada, and free of the offences listed in its licensing regulation.
- 2 Take the basic training course** 1 to 3 weeks
 An approved provider teaches the legal powers of a guard, use of force, report writing, emergency response and first aid. Usually about 40 hours, in class or online.
- 3 Pass the provincial test** 1 day
 Ontario issues a training completion number, then you write the mandatory test for security guards.
- 4 Get your criminal record check and apply** 2 to 6 weeks
 Ontario charges \$80 for the licence and it expires two birthdays after it is issued.
- 5 Get hired and trained on site** Days
 Agencies hire constantly. Site-specific training happens in your first days.

Pros and cons

- + Licensed and working within a month
- + Costs a few hundred dollars, not a few thousand
- + Shifts that fit around school
- Starting pay is close to minimum wage
- Nights, weekends and long stretches of boredom
- You face conflict with no police powers behind you

Good to know

Your licence expires on your birthday

An Ontario security guard licence expires two birthdays after the day it is issued, so the first one lasts between one and two years depending on when you apply.

Guards outnumber police

There are far more licensed security guards in Canada than there are police officers. Alberta alone counts about 14,525 of them.

Optional boosts

First aid at a higher level. Use of force and handcuff certification. Driver's licence and clean abstract. Private investigator licence.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Security Guard in Canada, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Ontario: get a security guard or private investigator licence

alis Alberta: Security Guard occupation profile

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/security-guard>



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