

Analyzing Canadian Citizenship Application Refusals: An Investigation of the Data and Trends

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Enabling access to citizenship for newcomers is an important objective for Canada and one that requires regular re-evaluation of our practices to uphold. Acquiring citizenship is often seen as the last step in achieving full integration into Canadian society, serving as an official anchor to Canada and bringing along with it additional rights and privileges. As a result, citizenship acquisition benefits both new Canadians and Canadian society as a whole. Because of this, Canada is committed to identifying any barriers to citizenship in order to address them. While the Canadian citizenship refusal rate remains very low and Canada's naturalization rate is amongst the highest in the world, it is important to analyze citizenship refusals for any trends as to distinguish areas of success from those in need of increased attention.

This project would involve presenting and analyzing data tables created using citizenship applications data and shared with you by the supervisor. The analysis will involve exploring the many socio-demographic factors of citizenship refusals along with other relevant operational metrics. The scope of work suggested would also include a review of existing academic research on citizenship access to provide any relevant context and further support the analysis and comprehension of the data. Moreover, the use of results from Statistics Canada's Census of Population will also be included to complement the data analysis and associated trends.

Benefits to the participant and Requirements of the Project

The work we suggest in this directed research project would give the student a very good understanding of data analysis conducted within the government and how it is applied to policy-making. It will also give the student a thorough view of the naturalization landscape in Canada and how it compares to other migrant-receiving countries. As an effective search can only be accomplished with an understanding, at the onset, of the subject matter and of the factors important to policy relevance of research in this area, the supervisor will spend time with the student going over the proposed project in great detail. In addition, the student will not only be asked to investigate and examine existing literature, but will also be required to discuss/ask questions during the weekly meetings with the supervising research analyst in charge with regards to this project.

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Project Deliverables and Timelines

- February 12th:** Annotated bibliography of relevant research (properly sourced)
- A minimum of 20 sources is required (1-2 paragraphs summarizing key findings, strengths and limitations of research piece)
- March 10th:** Draft report of major findings for **sections A and B** identified below:
- A. Overview of current trends in citizenship access and barriers in Canada and abroad**
This section will focus on...
- *Establishing the current landscape with respect to immigrants' access to citizenship in Canada and abroad, particularly for similar migrant-receiving countries.*
- B. Presentation of data on refused Canadian citizenship applications**
This section will focus on...
- *Presenting data tables and graphs on citizenship refusals for various socio-demographic fields and other metrics*
 - *Creating bullets identifying key trends or highlights of the data presented*
- C. Analysis of observed data trends**
This section will focus on...
- *Providing an analysis of the identified trends and highlights from Section B contextualized with any findings from Section A*
 - *Supplementing the findings in Section B with relevant Statistics Canada Census of Population results*
 - *Identifying areas of consideration for policy-makers*
 - *Summarizing key findings to be presented in the report's Executive Summary*
- March 30th:** Draft report of section **A and B (revised), and C (draft)**
- April 21st:** Submit final report to supervisor including:
- Major findings
 - Bibliography
 - Annotated bibliography
- April 24th:** Submit final report to Director including:
- Final report approved by Supervisor
 - 1-2 page write-up of experience in the Directed Research Program (assigned by the Director at the beginning of the semester)

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Meeting Schedule and Course Milestones

- Video meeting once a week (or more frequently, if required) for approximately 1 hour to discuss project and to identify any issues or concerns.

Milestone	Fall 2024
Supervisors and students informed about outcome of matching	January 9
Student interviews with supervisors	January 10-16
Annotated bibliography submitted	February 12
Draft report of sections A and B to supervisor	March 10
Draft report of section A and B (revised), and C (draft)	March 30
Final report to supervisor	April 21
Students submit final draft and report to director	April 24
Supervisor submits evaluation to director	April 30