



Based on current IRCC trends and common pitfalls for 2025 applications, these are **the top 5 documents** that applicants frequently overlook or submit incorrectly.

1. Employer Reference Letters

Many applicants mistakenly believe that a simple offer letter or recent pay stubs are sufficient to prove work experience. In 2026, IRCC remains strict about the specific content of these letters.

- **What's often missing:** A detailed list of job duties that match your **NOC code**, total annual salary, the specific number of hours worked per week, and the company's official letterhead with contact info.

2. Valid Police Certificates (All Required Jurisdictions)

Applicants often forget that they need a certificate from **every** country where they have lived for six months or more in a row since the age of 18.

- **What's often missing:** Certificates from "minor" residences (e.g., a 7-month study abroad) or failing to provide a certificate from their home country if they haven't lived there recently.

3. Updated Educational Credential Assessment (ECA)

While most know they need an ECA for foreign degrees, many forget to check the **expiry date**.

- **The Oversight:** ECAs are typically valid for **five years**. If your ECA was issued in 2020 or 2021, it is likely expired for your 2026 application.

4. Official Bank Letters (Proof of Funds)

Submitting six months of bank statements is standard, but many people forget the mandatory **official bank letter**.

- **What's often missing:** A formal letter on the financial institution's letterhead that includes the bank's contact information, your name, outstanding debts (loans/credit cards), and the average balance for the past six months.

5. Certified Translations for All Non-English/French Documents

In the rush to submit, many applicants overlook documents that are partially in another language or forget the specific requirements for the translator.

- **The Oversight:** Every document not in English or French must include the **original** version, the **translation**, and an **affidavit** from the person who completed the translation (unless they are a certified Canadian translator).