



COLLEGE OF  
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES  
OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

## International applicants

CLPNNL Registration and Service fees are located [HERE](#).

International applicants are graduates of nursing programs from countries other than Canada who do not hold a valid license to practice as an LPN in a Canadian province or territory, and who wish to become registered to work as an LPN in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The term Internationally Educated Nurses or IENs is often used to describe applicants in this category.

**The following outlines the process that all international applicants will follow in their licensure pathway:**

### 1. Apply for an Educational Credential Assessment (ECA)

An educational credential assessment (ECA) is required for all applicants educated outside Canada. An ECA is used to verify your education program and determine its equivalency to a Canadian degree. CLPNNL requires:

- All ECAs be submitted directly from the issuing organization to CLPNNL.
- The ECA consists of a course-by-course ICAP assessment of the education as well as provides a transcript.
- All advisory reports must indicate the language of instruction for theory and clinical for the completed nursing program. Please see [CLPNNL English Language Proficiency Fact Sheet 2024](#) for more information.
- If the ECA that a person is going to use does not provide this type of assessment, then the transcripts of the nursing education program must be submitted directly to CLPNNL from the issuing educational institution. For a list of the accepted ECA organizations click [HERE](#).

### 2. English Language Requirements

All applicants for licensure in Newfoundland and Labrador must have an acceptable level of proficiency with the English language. CLPNNL will use the information that the IEN provides on the application form to determine if the applicant requires a language test to demonstrate an acceptable level of proficiency.

Applicants required to demonstrate satisfactory English comprehension must obtain scores set by the CLPNNL Board on a test(s) acceptable to the Board. To understand how best to demonstrate English Language proficiency, see the [CLPNNL's English Language Requirements](#).

### 3. Apply to CLPNNL as an EXAM CANDIDATE

All Internationally Educated Nurses will apply as an EXAM CANDIDATE. This application is available when they sign up for a CLPNNL member account. The link for the member portal can be found [HERE](#).

Steps for the Application:

- complete the **Exam Candidate Application** and ensure all sections are completed and correct
- pay the Credential Assessment Fee (see the [Registration and Service Fee policy](#)) – This invoice will be generated when you submit the Exam Candidate Application, and it must be paid before the application can be reviewed by the CLPNNL Registration Staff
- upload the required documents as outlined on the application form. These include a copy of:
  - ✓ birth certificate
  - ✓ marriage certificate in the event of a name change (if applicable)
  - ✓ government-issued picture identification

Once the application has been submitted and the Credential Assessment Fee paid, CLPNNL Staff will review the application and ensure it is complete. If there are corrections or additional requirements, they will be communicated to the applicant.

Applicants who are deemed eligible candidates for the exam are also eligible for a 4-month temporary license to practice in NL while they wait to write the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE). You must complete the following:

- pay the CPNRE FEE (see the [Registration and Service Fee policy](#)) – This invoice will be generated in the CLPNNL Member Portal when the Exam Candidate Application has been approved.

If the IEN chooses to apply for a Temporary License to Practice while they wait to write the CPNRE, the applicant must complete the following:

- Apply for a Temporary License in the CLPNNL Member Portal.
- Pay the Temporary Licensure fee (see [Registration and Service Fee policy](#))
  - Provide CLPNNL with an Original criminal record check, not older than six (6) months before the date the license is to be processed. CLPNNL will accept an original paper or electronic version from a local or national police service, or from a Canadian background screening organization (e.g.

CSI, Sterling Backcheck and myBackCheck). [Paper originals can be mailed or dropped off in person.](#)

- Complete the required [Jurisprudence Learning module](#) provided free of charge through the Newfoundland and Labrador provincial Continuing Education Portal.
  - submit the certificate of successful completion of the Jurisprudence module to [registration@clpnnl.ca](mailto:registration@clpnnl.ca)
- Attend the CLPNNL virtual “Practical Nursing in Newfoundland and Labrador” session (to be scheduled by Registration staff).
- Submit any verifications of licensure that are outlined in your decision letter. If you require a document to support your request for verification of licensure for CLPNNL from your country click [here](#).

When all fees and required documents have been received and deemed satisfactory, the temporary license will be processed, and the LPN’s name will be found on the [FIND A NURSE](#) section on the CLPNNL website.

A temporary license will be issued for 4 months to give applicants the opportunity to prepare for and write the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE). International applicants may increase their likelihood of success if they obtain practice experience in Canada prior to writing the CPNRE.

When all licensure requirements have been met, including successful completion of the CPNRE, a temporary license will be converted to an initial license without additional cost. The initial license will be valid until the end of the licensure year (March 31).

## Currency of Practice

All applicants to CLPNNL are required to meet currency of practice hours.

Currency of practice hours means that you have practiced a minimum of 1125 hours in the past five (5) years, or 450 hours in the past two (2) years.

An eligible international applicant without currency of practice hours may be required to complete the Supervised Practice Experience Program if they can demonstrate evidence of some practice in the previous 10 year to licensure.

The ***Supervised Practice Experience Program (SPEP)*** is a regulatory program that is employment focused and available to eligible candidates in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), who have met educational requirements but do not meet currency of practice requirements.

Eligible IENs must have a NL employer for their SPEP program and can then apply for a Temporary License. The Temporary License for SPEP participants will be granted for a 6-month period. The program includes 450 hours of practice in a mutually agreed on area of practice

with a minimum of 135 hours under direct supervision of an experienced LPN or in certain circumstances a RN preceptor. The remaining (315) can be completed under direct or indirect supervision. By participating in the program, candidates will meet the currency of practice hours requirement and enhance their nursing knowledge, skill and judgement.

Following successful completion of SPEP, candidates who are International Educated Nurses (IENs) will be eligible to register for the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE). Successful completion of the CPNRE is the final step to move to initial licensure as an LPN.

Applicants in this category must:

Review the [SPEP Memo and FAQ's](#)

Submit the required SPEP documents as outlined in the [SPEP Guide](#).

### **Eligible International Applicant – non generalist**

An eligible international applicant who does not meet the generalist education requirement for theory and practice may be granted a temporary license while they obtain the required theory and practice experience, as outlined by the Registrar.

Applicants in this category complete the Application for Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs).

A temporary license in this category is valid for twenty-six (26) weeks from issuance and is subject to restrictions identified by the Registrar.

Further information regarding this category of temporary licensure will be determined by the CLPNNL Credential Assessment, and communicated to the applicant once a determination around eligibility is made.

**\*International Applicants who do not meet one of the above licensure pathways should contact CLPNNL to determine if alternate licensure pathways may be available.**