

New Nova Scotia College of Nursing approach for registration and licensure for Internationally Educated Nurses

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the new Nova Scotia College of Nursing regulations surrounding licensure for nurses with international credentials?

Effective May 1, 2023, the Nova Scotia College of Nursing will implement a new approach to registration and licensing that will increase licensure of nurses, reduce administrative requirements, and align with ongoing initiatives of health care partners. This new approach will:

- Enable nurses licensed in good standing in a Canadian jurisdiction to obtain licensure in Nova Scotia within 24 hours, compared to the current timeline of five days (effective March 29, 2023).
- Enable internationally educated nurses in good standing to apply directly to NSCN, reducing the application process from over a year to a matter of weeks (effective May 1, 2023)

What countries are included in this pathway?

- Australia
- India
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Philippines
- United Kingdom
- United States

How does it work?

If you are a registered nurse licensed in one of the countries included in this pathway and have already submitted an application to NSCN, the College will be reaching out to you individually over the next four to six weeks to provide you an update on your application. If you are a registered nurse licensed in one of the countries included in this pathway, but have yet to apply to NSCN, we would ask that you complete the following application process **after May 1st, 2023**:

1. Complete an NSCN application.
2. Submit two pieces of identification.
3. Submit proof of meeting the English Language proficiency requirement (if required)

4. Arrange for Verification of Registration (VOR) from your current regulatory body to be submitted directly to NSCN.
5. Arrange for a criminal record check(s) (CRC) to be submitted directly to NSCN.

Based on the college's assessment, you may fall under one of two pathways under this new approach:

1. You are granted a full license to practice in Nova Scotia as you have already passed NCLEX-RN, and are eligible for employment within Nova Scotia Health. This means that you:
 1. will be eligible for a permanent full-time role as a Registered Nurse within Nova Scotia Health; and
 2. will be offered a comprehensive suite of transition-to-practice supports - including mentorship, an orientation to the Canadian healthcare system, and ongoing professional development opportunities – which are designed to help you successfully integrate into the Canadian healthcare system and feel supported in their roles as healthcare professionals
2. You are granted conditional licenses to practice in Nova Scotia as you have not yet passed the NCLEX exam, and are eligible for employment within Nova Scotia Health. This means that you:
 1. will be eligible for the NICHE Program's NCLEX Preparation Pathway;
 2. will be onboarded into full-time sponsored employment as a preceptored Graduate Nurse within Nova Scotia Health, with a dedicated number of hours per week of protected time for NCLEX study preparation;
 3. will gain access materials and resources for NCLEX preparation through Nova Scotia Health's Learning Institute for Health Care Providers; and upon successful passing of the NCLEX, you will transition into permanent employment as a Registered Nurse within Nova Scotia Health.

If you do not fall under one of the 2 pathways and are deemed ineligible for licensure under this new process, we will continue to support your pathway to licensure and employment through NICHE's other RN Pathways, including the Bridging Program.

How is this different from the current process?

This new approach will:

- Enable nurses licensed in good standing in a Canadian jurisdiction to obtain licensure in Nova Scotia within 24 hours, compared to the current timeline of five days.
- Enable internationally educated nurses in good standing from select international jurisdictions to apply directly to NSCN, reducing the application process from over a year

to a matter of weeks.

What happens if I'm already enrolled in the bridging program?

While you await your response from NSCN, we ask that you **continue to participate in your regularly scheduled programming with the Learning Institute**. Over the coming weeks, we will be evaluating your file and reaching out to you to schedule a conversation to discuss your options moving forward.

What I'm a nurse with international credentials, but not from one of the identified countries in this initiative?

This is one of the many pathways available for nurses with international credentials. Nova Scotia Health is committed to supporting all internationally nurse applicants in their pathway to licensure and employment, and in their transition-to-practice. We are still here to support you, and have developed many different supportive pathways that will assist all nurses with international credentials in their journey to becoming a registered nurse in Nova Scotia.

If you have not already done so, please complete the NICHE Intake and Assessment Survey using the following link: www.nshealth.ca/nichesurvey

Where can I go for more information?

- NSCN has launched a dedicated webpage on the [NSCN website](#) to share more details about the process as well as frequently asked questions and responses. The webpage will be regularly updated and you can submit questions directly online and subscribe to a time-limited special newsletter to receive regular updates. Details about the process will be added to the website over the next four weeks. NSCN has also created a newsletter; a link to sign up for this newsletter is accessible of the NSCN webpage.
- Should you have any questions for Nova Scotia Health, or require any complementary supports along this pathway, please do not hesitate to continue to reach out to NICHE@nshealth.ca. We will be sending you regular updates on the new processes and supports being developed within Nova Scotia Health in response to this new pathway. We will also be posting up-to-date information on the [NICHE webpage](#). We look forward to continuing to support your journey to establishing practice as a Registered Nurse in Nova Scotia.