

### How do I apply for Registered Nurse (RN) registration?

All nurses who were educated outside of Canada and are seeking initial registration in Saskatchewan as an RN must first complete an application to the National Nursing Assessment Service (NNAS). The NNAS verifies credentials for IENs, compares them to Canadian standards and provides a secure, centralized electronic repository for education and registration credentials.

### How do I apply to NNAS?

For more information about the (NNAS), please visit their website: [NNAS](#)

### What are CRNS requirements for registration and licensure?

To practice (work) as an RN in Saskatchewan, you must be registered and licensed to practice registered nursing with the CRNS. Once you have a license with the CRNS, you can call yourself, or work as, a "nurse," "registered nurse," "graduate nurse," "nurse practitioner" or "graduate nurse practitioner".

### Requirements for Registration:

- **Education:**  
Graduation from a basic registered nursing education program at a post-secondary level that included theoretical and clinical experience across the health continuum and includes providing care to clients of all ages and genders in a variety of health settings.
- **Initial (original) Registration:**  
You must have been registered in good standing in the jurisdiction where you completed your RN education program. This means you need a verification from that jurisdiction indicating that you were licensed and were not the subject of an investigation or any practice limitations, restrictions or conditions in that jurisdiction that limit the practice of registered nursing.
  - **Note:** Applicants who wrote the June 2006 licensure examination in the Philippines must provide proof of having successfully completed the special examination, which was authorized by the Philippine Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), Parts III (3) and V (5). If an applicant has not written the special examination or cannot provide proof of such, they are not eligible as an applicant for registration.

- ***Current (most recent) Registration:***

You must be registered in good standing in the jurisdiction where you most recently worked as an RN. This means you need verification from that jurisdiction indicating you were licensed and not the subject of an investigation or any practice limitations, restrictions or conditions in that jurisdiction that limit the practice of registered nursing.

- ***Language Proficiency:***

English is the primary language used in health care in Saskatchewan. You are required to be proficient in English to ensure safe nursing practice. There are different ways that proficiency can be demonstrated:

- Acceptable English language test(s). Acceptable English language test results must remain current throughout the application and exam process until RN licensure has been obtained. [See Acceptable English Tests.](#)
- Proof of completion of a baccalaureate, re-entry, or bridging program delivered in Canada, the USA, the UK, New Zealand or Australia
- Employer attestation if you have worked in an English speaking health-care role in Canada, the USA, the UK, New Zealand or Australia in the previous two years.

- ***Good Character:***

This means evidence that you have not been convicted of any criminal offence or a finding of guilt for any criminal offence under the *Criminal Code* (Canada), the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada), or any similar legislation in any province, territory, state or country, or any offence related to the practice of nursing or any profession in any jurisdiction.

- ***Employer Reference:*** A written employer reference is required, attesting to your safe practice.

- ***Currency of Practice:*** In the previous five years, you must have either:

- Worked at least 1125 hours of nursing practice;
- Graduated from an approved or recognized nursing education program; or
- Completed an approved nursing re-entry (bridging) program.

### **When can I apply with CRNS?**

- You may begin your application process with the CRNS after your NNAS assessment is complete and you have been issued an Advisory Report from NNAS.

## How do I apply with CRNS?

Please create an account.

- You will be able to apply with the CRNS from your NNAS online account or by accessing the CRNS website. If the system does not navigate to the “Member Area – Sign In” page, please click on the “Member Area – Sign In” at the top right of the CRNS home page. Select “Apply for membership.” Select new user, then “Apply now.” You will be asked to provide your email address (this is the email address CRNS will use to correspond with you).
- You will activate your account via the “Activation Link via Email.”
- Once you are logged in, you will click on “Start New Application” and select “Application Type – Internationally Educated Registered Nurse.”
- At the start of your application, you will be asked to provide your NNAS ID Number and your NNAS Application Number as well as your date of birth.
- Complete your online IEN membership application and submit the required fee at the end of the application. **Please note that the CRNS has a no refund policy.**

## What happens once I submit my application to CRNS?

- The CRNS will open a file and collect your documents.
- You will receive an email within two weeks of submitting your application and fee to the CRNS notifying you that your application and fee has been received.
- To find your checklist go to “Apply for Membership” and log into your account. At the welcome screen you will see your application – click “review” to access your online checklist.
- The application checklist in the Applicant Portal will be updated to reflect documents received, required and outstanding. You will be notified by email once the online checklist has been created/updated.
- If additional information is required, you will be notified in the application checklist.
- To submit outstanding requirements, send the documents by email as an attachment to [international@crns.ca](mailto:international@crns.ca)
- If you don’t see a checklist or if you have difficulty finding information on the website, send an email to [international@crns.ca](mailto:international@crns.ca)
- Once all required documents have been received, your application will be reviewed you will be notified of the next steps CRNS by email.
- Each application is assessed individually. The time required to establish registration can vary significantly from applicant to applicant. Time depends on several factors including when documents are received, processing times, availability of the Substantially Equivalent Competency (SEC) Assessment and required course work.
- The CRNS cannot fast track applications for any reason.

## What are possible outcomes?

Once all your documents have been received and your application is reviewed, possible outcomes include but are not limited to:

- A referral for a Substantially Equivalent Competency (SEC) Assessment to continue the assessment. If you are referred for a SEC Assessment, you will have 12 months to submit the assessment fee, book the SEC with Saskatchewan Polytechnic and complete the assessment.
- Dependent upon the outcome of the SEC, remedial education may be assigned to address any identified gaps. Click here for more information on the [SEC Assessment](#).
- Eligibility to write the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nursing (NCLEX®-RN). Once you have applied to write the NCLEX, you are eligible to apply for a graduate nurse license. Click here for more information on [NCLEX®-RN](#) and the [GN license](#).
- Eligibility to apply for RN licensure if you have previously written and passed the NCLEX.
- A recommendation to pursue additional formal education.

## Applications validity period

Applications remain valid for one year from the date of last contact by the applicant with the CRNS. Last contact is defined as the provision of documentation/information to support the application process. If documents are not received within 12 months, the application will expire, and you must reapply. There may be a case-by-case review of extenuating circumstance to extend this time period. Requests for an extension must be written, dated, and signed by the applicant.

## Will the CRNS send copies of my transcripts and application to a third party?

The CRNS will not send copies of any part of an applicant's file to a third party.

## Can a third party, such as a recruiter, submit an application for me?

No, the CRNS will not accept documents from third parties.

## Why do I need a criminal record check (CRC) and where can I get one?

A CRC will be required at the time of GN/RN licensure. You must go to the police or [RCMP](#) station where you live to request one. You will also require a CRC from the country you last practised as an RN, available through [CSI Background Screening](#) or the consulate. The reports must be issued within the previous six (6) months for the date of application for licensure. Any costs associated with the CRC report are the applicant's responsibility.

---

### How much does it cost to apply to the CRNS?

You will be required to pay several fees related to your application and registration. Please see the [fee schedule](#) posted on the CRNS website.

### National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX)

You may apply for the NCLEX only after you receive a decision letter (letter of eligibility) from the CRNS indicating that you are eligible to apply for the exam. When you received the decision letter, the CRNS will also share the applications for the NCLEX and Graduate Nurse (GN) license.

For more information about the NCLEX go to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) website <https://www.ncsbn.org/>

For more information about how to apply for the NCLEX or a GN license go to applying for the [NCLEX-RN](#) or [GN license](#).

### What if I have already written the NCLEX?

The CRNS recognizes all passing NCELX results back to 1982. If you have already passed the NCLEX, you do not have to take it again, but the CRNS will require a copy of the results directly from source.

Please complete Section A of the Verification of Current/Most Recent Registration/Licensure form and forward to the regulatory body where you wrote your NCLEX exam. This verification of NCLEX results must come directly from that regulatory body, not from yourself.

This form can be found at <https://www.crns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/verification-of-current-most-recent-registration-licensure.pdf>

If you have already submitted your NCLEX result to the NNAS, you do not have to re-submit your results to the CRNS.

**NOTE:** All licensure requirements are set out in the CRNS bylaws and are subject to change.

---