



Physical Therapist/Physiotherapist

Registration Process

Description of Occupation

Physical Therapists (also called Physiotherapists) help patients with physical challenges so they are better able to function on their own. They determine a patient's physical limitations and develop treatment plans. They also measure a patient's progress and change their treatment plans as needed. In addition, Physical Therapists give advice on how to prevent potential health problems.

Physical Therapists can work with people of all ages, or they may work with a particular age group (children or seniors). They may also focus on a particular practice area (orthopedics, neurology or cardiorespiratory).

Obtaining Registration in Alberta

Physical Therapists must be registered and licensed with the College of Physical Therapists of Alberta in order to work in Alberta. The operational name of the College is Physiotherapy Alberta – College + Association, which is referred to and used in this document.

Complete the **Application Form** and provide detailed and accurate answers to all questions. When your application is complete with all documents, sign it and send it to Physiotherapy Alberta – College + Association (Physiotherapy Alberta) at the following address:

Physiotherapy Alberta – College + Association
 Suite 300 Dorchester Building, 10357 - 109 Street NW
 Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N3
 Canada

Links to the Application Form and other resources are at the end of this document.

Internationally educated Physical Therapists should begin the credential assessment part of the application process before arriving in Alberta, and before applying for registration with Physiotherapy Alberta. It is usually easier to obtain all required documents while you are still in your home country.

Credential Assessment

Physiotherapy Alberta uses the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (The Alliance) to assess the education and qualifications of internationally educated applicants. Internationally educated Physical Therapists must meet the following requirements:

1. Academic Credentials

A university level education in physical therapy is required. Academic credentials must be assessed by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (The Alliance).

- Complete the Credentialing Application Form found on The Alliance's website (www.alliancept.org). Make sure the information you provide is accurate, and include all supporting documents, as outlined on the Application Checklist located in the package.

The Alliance will assess your academic credentials to determine if your education is equivalent to Canadian physical therapy education standards. The credentialing process can take from 10 to 18 weeks to complete.

Assessments will not be started until all required materials have been received.

Applicants must pay for the cost of the assessment (see “Payment”).

2. Work Experience

No work experience is required to apply to become a Physical Therapist in Alberta.

Examinations

After your academic credentials and qualifications are confirmed by The Alliance, you must take the Physiotherapy Competency Exam (PCE). The exam is administered by The Alliance, on behalf of Physiotherapy Alberta.

The PCE has a written and clinical component and can only be completed in Canada.

Good Character and Reputation

You must demonstrate good character and reputation by:

- Written references from all regulatory agencies where you have been registered/licensed for the last five (5) years of your practice.

AND

- Self-declaration regarding professional conduct and criminal offences.

English Language

You have a few options to demonstrate English language proficiency:

- Complete your entry-to-practice education (both classroom and clinical) in Australia, United States, New Zealand, Ireland, South Africa or the United Kingdom.
- Score high enough on an Alliance-accepted English-language test. The accepted tests and scores are posted on The Alliance’s website.
- Complete both components of the Physiotherapy Competency Exam (PCE) in English.

Current Competence to Practice

You must prove your education and qualifications are up to date. You may do this by providing:

- Proof of passing the Physiotherapy Competency Exam within the past three (3) years.

OR

- Proof of practicing physical therapy at least 1,200 hours during the past five (5) years.

Payment

The following fees are in place for international applicants. All fees are in Canadian dollars and current as of September 1, 2015. Fees are subject to change. Refer to Physiotherapy Alberta and Alliance websites for the most up-to-date fees.

Education credentials and qualification assessment	\$995
Fees for transcripts and verification of registration	Set by each organization
Written component of PCE	\$865
Clinical component of PCE	\$1455

Physiotherapy Alberta, College + Association fees	
Application fee	\$115
Practice Permit Fee (if applying for registration between October and March)	\$750
Practice Permit Fee (if applying for registration between April and September)	\$570

Temporary Licence

If you meet all registration requirements (except passing the PCE clinical component), you are eligible for temporary registration and eligible to practice under supervision. You will need to arrange for supervised practice as a condition of registration.

A temporary licence can be held for a maximum of two (2) years, during which time you must pass the PCE clinical component to continue practicing in Alberta.

Despite the two (2) year time period, your temporary licence and registration will be cancelled if you fail the PCE clinical component twice.

Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for Physical Therapists, according to the Alberta 2013 Wage and Salary survey:

Average hours worked per week	31.1
Average wage per hour	\$44.98
Average salary per year	\$73,042

Physical Therapists who work in the public health system are covered under the union agreement with the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA). For more information, visit www.hsaa.ca/member-resources/bargaining-agreements.

Employment Options

You can also consider working in Alberta in related occupations such as Physical Therapist Assistant, Exercise Assistant or Rehabilitation Assistant.

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website: [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles — Physiotherapist \(www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo\)](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo).

Contact Information

Physiotherapy Alberta – College + Association
Suite 300 Dorchester Building, 10357 - 109 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N3, Canada
Telephone: 780-438-0338
Toll-Free: 800-291-2782
Fax: 780-436-1908
Email: info@physiotherapyalberta.ca
Website: www.physiotherapyalberta.ca

Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators 
1243 Islington Avenue, Suite 501 
Toronto, Ontario M8X 1Y9
Telephone: 416-234-8800
Fax: 416-234-8820
Email: email@alliancept.org
Website: www.alliancept.org

Resources

This information is an overview of the registration process. For the most current information on Physical Therapist registration visit www.physiotherapyalberta.ca

Application Process and Package:

www.physiotherapyalberta.ca/physiotherapists/registration/internationally_educated/

Academic Credentials:

www.alliancept.org/credential_applicants_overview.php
www.alliancept.org/credential_applicants_applying.php

English Language:

www.alliancept.org/pdfs/CredentiallingPolicies-Final_eng.pdf (Credentialing Policies)

Examination:

www.alliancept.org/exams_candidates_overview.php

Registration Information:

www.physiotherapyalberta.ca/physiotherapists/registration/internationally_educated/