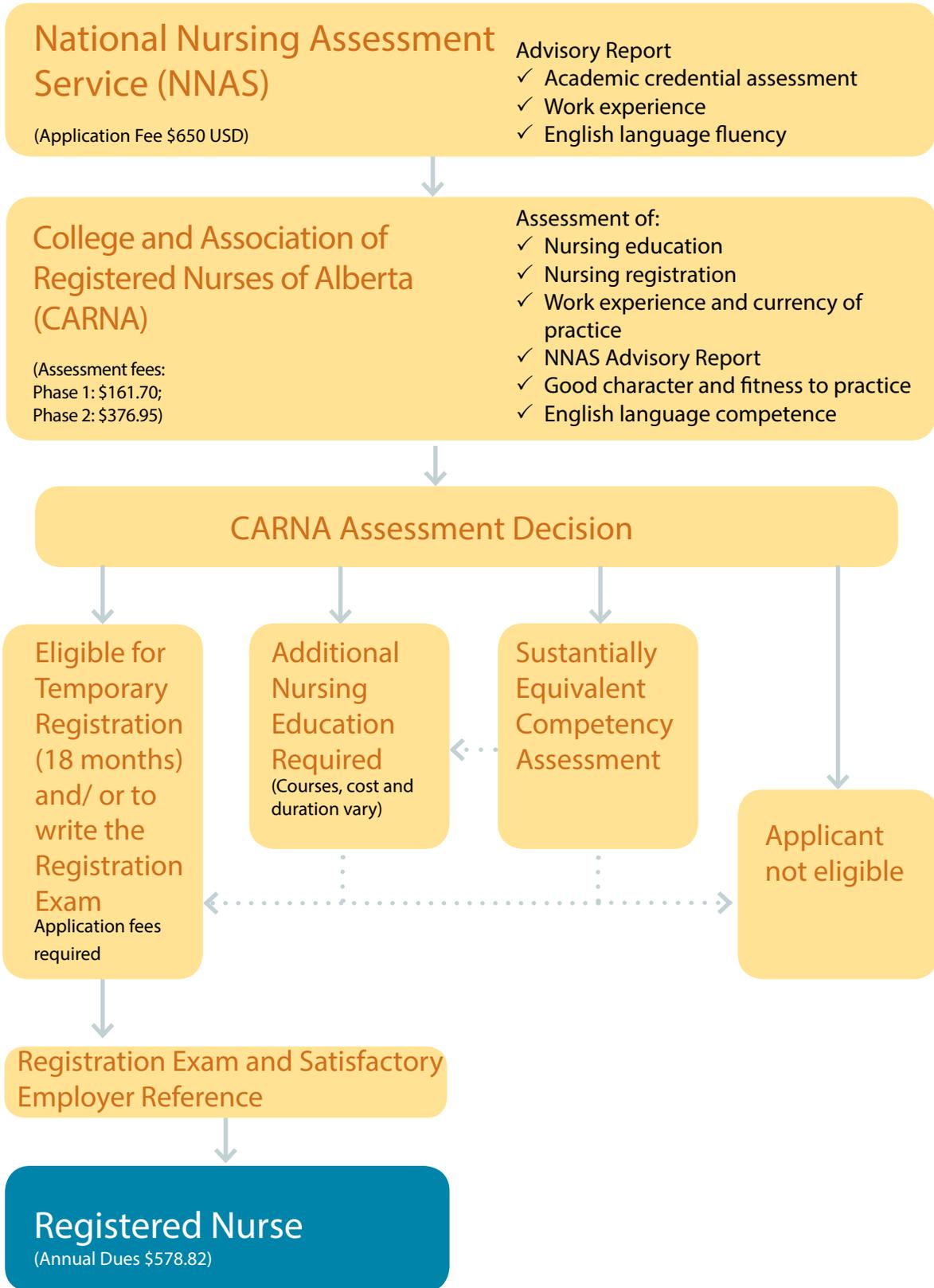


Registered Nurse

Registration Process



Registered Nurse Registration Process

Description of Occupation

Registered Nurses (RNs) are members of the health care team and apply nursing knowledge, skill and judgment to prevent or treat injury and assist individuals, families, groups, communities and populations achieve optimal physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health and well-being. RNs teach, counsel and advocate for enhancing health and well-being across the lifespan. They assess, diagnose and provide treatment and interventions and make referrals. RNs teach nursing theory and practice. The RN provides leadership in nursing by coordinating, supervising, monitoring and evaluating the provision of health services and manages and administers the allocation of resources. RNs engage in research related to health and the practice of nursing.

Obtaining Registration in Alberta

Internationally educated RNs can—and should—begin the application process before they arrive in Alberta.

To be eligible to practice as a registered nurse in Alberta, you must obtain a practice permit from the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA). The first step is to apply to the National Nursing Assessment Service (NNAS) for document evaluation and verification. You will be required to:

1. Set up an online account with the NNAS
2. Complete the online application
3. Pay the required fee
4. Submit the required documents for verification.

Once your file is complete, NNAS will evaluate it and provide you with online access to an Advisory Report, which contains the results of the evaluation. Once you have your Advisory Report, you can then apply to CARNA.

Requirements

Internationally educated registered nurses must meet the following requirements:

1. Academic Credentials

You must submit all of the materials listed on the NNAS's website in order to begin the assessment process. The process consists of:

- A document evaluation and verification process which determines if you have a similar education to that of a Canadian registered nurse. You will require:
 - An online NNAS Applicant User Account
 - Proof of identity documents (notarized, certified true copies of two forms of identification which contain your signature, at least one of which must contain a photo)
 - Nursing Education Form completed by school officials and sent directly to NNAS by mail or courier along with all of your academic records/transcripts, and nursing program curriculum/ course descriptions and/or course syllabi

- Nursing Registration Form completed by each licensing authority outside of Canada where you are or were ever licensed or registered (sent directly to NNAS by mail or courier)
- Any necessary translations

2. Work Experience

The following must be submitted to the NNAS in order to verify your work experience:

- Nursing Practice Employment Form completed by all employers you have worked for in the past 5 years (sent directly to NNAS by mail or courier)

3. English Language

When submitting documents to the NNAS, you must provide proof of your language proficiency if you were educated in a language other than English.

The NNAS accepts the following language tests, sent directly from the testing agency:

- IELTS - International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (only the Academic version is accepted)
- CELBAN - Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses

Application and Registration Requirements in Alberta

Step One: Apply for assessment of eligibility for registration in Alberta

After you receive an Advisory Report from NNAS, you should create a MyCARNA account to submit an application form and fee online.

CARNA will assess whether you currently possess the competencies to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of the RN in the Canadian health care system and determine whether you are eligible to proceed with completing registration requirements. Under Alberta legislation and regulations an Internationally Educated Nurse (IEN) applicant is assessed for ***substantially equivalent competence*** to that expected of the Alberta graduate and the registered nurse in Alberta.

The following documentation must be received by CARNA before the assessment process begins:

1. NNAS Advisory Report
2. Evidence of English language competence if your first language is not English. Acceptable test results must be less than six (6) months old at the time of application to NNAS, and are considered current for two (2) years from the date of the test. Please check the CARNA website for the most current information regarding acceptable English Language tests.
3. Evidence of good character and reputation (your registration is in good standing and completed applicant declaration)
4. Evidence of currency of nursing practice (documentation of nursing practice/experience)
5. Evidence of fitness to practice (completed applicant declaration).

Notes:

During assessment, you **may** be required to complete a *Substantially Equivalent Competency (SEC) Assessment* or to complete a bridging education program.

The SEC Assessment is currently only available through Kwantlen Polytechnic University in British Columbia. The SEC Assessment includes written examinations, and clinical lab and patient care situations.

At the end of the assessment process, CARNA will notify you with one of the following decisions:

- a) you are eligible to proceed with completing the remaining requirements for registration as a registered nurse in Alberta, or
- b) you must successfully complete additional nursing education assigned by CARNA before being eligible to complete the remaining requirements for registration as a registered nurse, or
- c) you are not eligible for registration.

Step Two: Successfully completing the remaining requirements for registration as a registered nurse

This step includes:

- Passing the registration exam in not more than three (3) attempts. On January 5, 2015, the NCLEX-RN became the registration exam for applicants seeking initial RN registration

AND

- Demonstrating safe, competent, ethical nursing practice by working as a graduate nurse in Alberta with a temporary permit and obtaining satisfactory employer reference(s). Applicants must apply for and be issued a temporary permit in order to work as a graduate nurse.

Holding temporary registration is **not** required to write the registration exam. Temporary registration allows an IEN to work while preparing to write the registration exam.

Temporary registration is at the discretion of the Registrar and can be held for not more than a total of 18 months.

Step Three: Applying for RN registration with CARNA

On successfully completing the requirements of Step Two, and if you continue to meet all other CARNA registration requirements, you will be eligible to apply for a full RN practice permit.

Fees

| | |
|--|-----------|
| NNAS Main Application | \$650 USD |
| CARNA Phase 1 Assessment | \$161.70 |
| CARNA Phase 2 Assessment (if further assessment is required) | \$376.95 |
| CARNA Temporary Permit Fee | \$289.41 |
| Exam application fee: for IEN applicants approved by CARNA to write the NCLEX-RN | \$53.55 |
| NCLEX-RN (fee is submitted online through the Pearson VUE website) | \$360 |
| CARNA Registered Nurse Permit Fee | \$578.82 |
| *Fees are subject to change. See CARNA website for most up-to-date fees. | |

Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for all Registered Nurses, according to the Alberta 2013 Wage and Salary survey:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Average hours worked per week | 28.8 |
| Average wage per hour | \$42.60 |
| Average salary per year | \$63,922 |

Other Health Care Professions

Although many internationally educated individuals are interested and wonder if they can become a registered nurse in Alberta, **only individuals who were educated and registered as Registered Nurses may be considered for registration with CARNA.**

Registered Psychiatric Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Midwives and Medical Doctors are regulated and registered as distinct professions in Alberta by their own regulatory authorities.

- College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta: www.crpna.ab.ca
- College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta: www.clpna.com
- College of Midwives of Alberta: www.college-midwives-ab.ca/
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta: www.cpsa.ab.ca

A list of health disciplines professional regulatory bodies in Alberta can be found at the following link: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/regulatory-colleges.html>

For more information about other health care professions, go to the following website: [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles — Registered Nurse \(www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo\)](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo).

Contact Information

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Edmonton, Alberta
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Fax: (780) 452-3276
Email: carna@nurses.ab.ca
Website: www.nurses.ab.ca

Resources

This information is only an overview of the registration process. For the most current and complete information on Registered Nurse registration visit the CARNA website at www.nurses.ab.ca

CARNA Application Information
[Internationally Educated Applicants](#)

National Nursing Assessment Service (NNAS)
[NNAS](#)

English Language:
[CELBAN \(Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses\)](#)
[IELTS \(International English Language Testing System\) Academic Version](#)