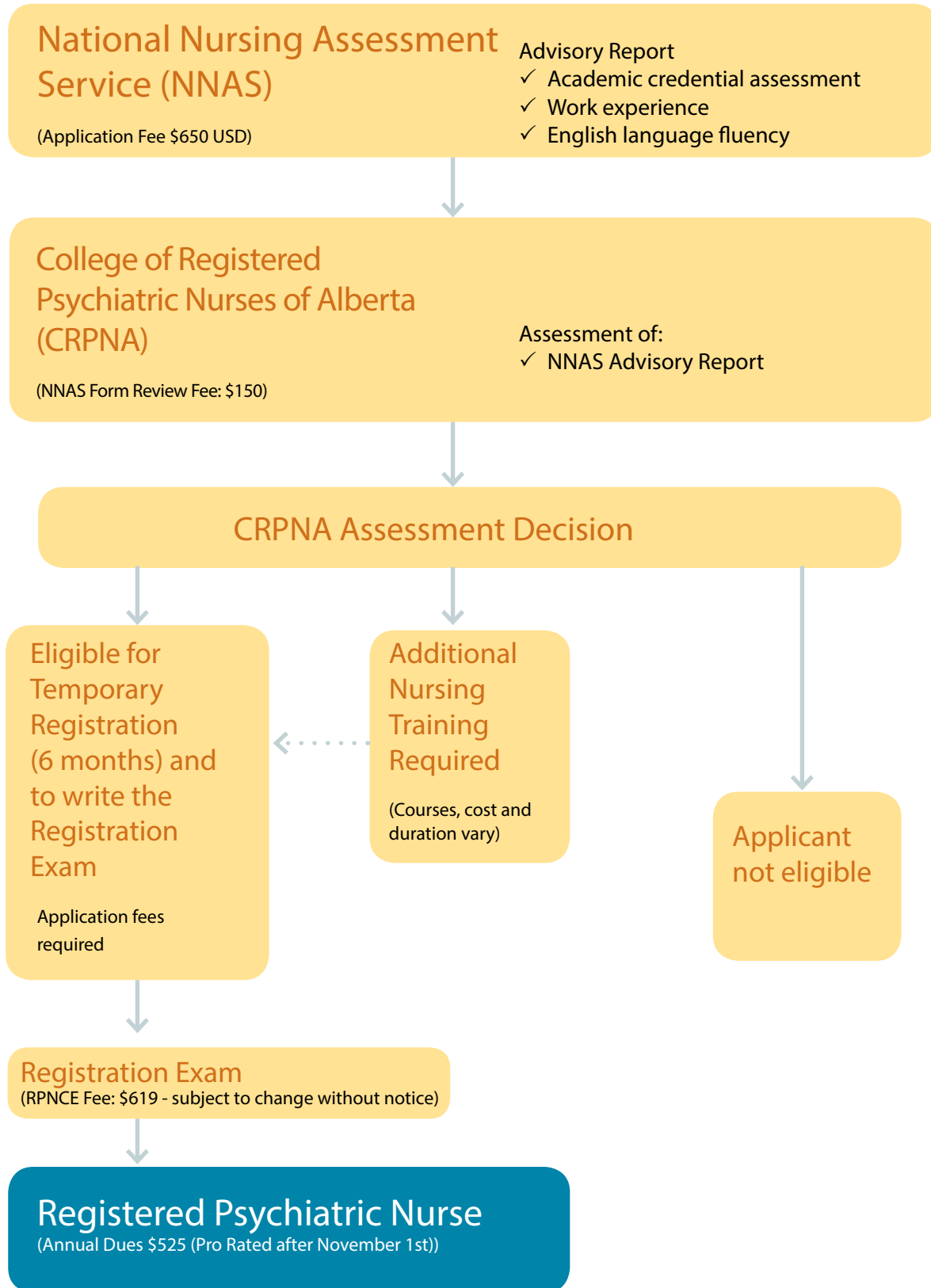


Registered Psychiatric Nurse

Registration Process



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Description of Occupation

Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPN) are autonomous professionals. They work collaboratively with clients and other health care team members to coordinate health care and provide client-centered services to individuals, families, groups and communities. RPNs focus on mental and developmental health, mental illness and addictions while integrating physical health care and utilizing bio-psycho-social and spiritual models for a holistic approach to care. RPNs practice in a variety of settings, with diverse populations.

Obtaining Registration in Alberta

To be eligible to practice as an RPN, you must be registered with the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta (CRPNA). The first step for **internationally educated psychiatric nurses** is to apply to the National Nursing Assessment Service (NNAS) for document evaluation and verification. The NNAS is the national body that begins the initial document collection and assessment of all internationally educated nurses who want to work in Canada. 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 to verify your personal information, psychiatric nursing education, psychiatric nursing registration and past psychiatric nursing work experience.

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. NNAS will also send your Advisory Report to the regulatory body that you specified in your application. Once you have your Advisory Report, you can then apply to CRPNA.

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

Residency Requirement

You should begin the application process before you arrive in Alberta. You must, however, have legal temporary or permanent work status in Canada in order to be licensed to provide services as a Registered Psychiatric Nurse in Alberta.

Requirements

Internationally educated Psychiatric 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 psychiatric 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 complete a [NNAS Report Review form](#) and send it to the CRPNA along with the Report Review Fee. CRPNA will review your file and inform you if any further information, assessment, education or training is required before you can apply to write the [Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada Examination](#).

Step Two: Successfully writing the Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada Examination

The Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada Examination (RPNCE) is presented as a mixture of case scenarios and independent questions based on entry level psychiatric nurse competencies. All questions are multiple choice.

The exam occurs on the third Wednesday of January, May and October. It is written on the same date and at the same time in other western provinces. It is a four-hour examination consisting of approximately 200 questions.

An Internationally Educated Psychiatric Nurse applying for the RPNCE must:

1. Review the Internationally Educated Nurse Guidelines for Exam Application prior to completing the application form
2. Complete the RPNCE application form in full
3. Submit the completed form and required documentation to the CRPNA office prior to the deadline date

CRPNA will email you to confirm receipt of the application and to provide information on your exam details.

At this point, you may also apply for a temporary practice permit (valid for only six (6) months). If you receive a temporary practice permit, you may only practice while supervised until you receive your full practice permit.

Step Three: Applying for RPN registration with CRPNA

On successfully passing the RPNCE, and if you continue to meet all other CRPNA registration requirements, you will be eligible for a full RPN practice permit.

Payment

Fees are listed in Canadian dollars unless otherwise specified and are subject to change without notice. See www.crpna.ab.ca for the most up to date fees.

NNAS Main Application	\$650 USD
Membership Fees	
Practicing Permit/Temporary Permit	\$525 (May 1 to October 31)
Practicing Permit/Temporary Permit	\$262.50 (November 1 to April 30)
Other Fees	
NNAS Report Review Fee	\$150
RPNCE Examination Fee	\$619

Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for all Psychiatric 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

The current United Nurses of Alberta contract can be reviewed for the most up-to-date salary information.

Employment Options

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

Registered 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 Nurses of Alberta: www.nurses.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 —Psychiatric Nurse \(www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo\)](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo).

Contact Information

College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta (CRPNA)
Suite 201, 9711-45 Ave
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 5V8
Telephone: 780-434-7666
Toll Free: 1-877-234-7666
Fax: 780-436-4165
Email: crpna@crpna.ab.ca
Website: www.crpna.ab.ca

Resources

This information is an overview of the registration process. For the most current information on Registered Psychiatric Nurse registration visit the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta (CRPNA) website at www.crpna.ab.ca.

Application Forms and Information:

[Guidelines for Internationally Educated Psychiatric Nurses](#)
[NNAS Report Review Form](#)

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

English Language:

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

Examination:

[Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada Examination \(RPNCE\)](#)
[Internationally Educated Nurse Guidelines for Exam Application](#)
[Application Form for the RPNCE](#)