



**Nova Scotia College of Respiratory Therapists**

**Candidate Guide**

**For**

**Health Care Professionals Educated Outside of Canada**

## **WELCOME**

Thank you for your interest in immigrating to the Province of Nova Scotia, Canada. We are pleased that you are considering Nova Scotia as a new home and a place to practice as a Respiratory Therapist.

If you are just exploring the possibility of immigrating to Canada or you have already been accepted, this letter will give you information and key links.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT IMMIGRATING**

- Read about Federal immigration programs, find out whether you are eligible and download application forms at:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/index.asp>

- Find out about immigration through the Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP) by contacting the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration at:

[www.novascotiainmigration.ca](http://www.novascotiainmigration.ca) .

- Many Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) enter Canada as Temporary Foreign Workers. This program is designed to meet the needs of Canadian employers but it can also be a first step towards immigration. Here's a link to more information about that program.

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/employers/temp-foreign-worker-program.asp>

**For more information or advice on immigration, please email [nsnp@gov.ns.ca](mailto:nsnp@gov.ns.ca) and an officer of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration will respond to you.**

## **BECOMING QUALIFIED IN YOUR PROFESSION**

Respiratory Therapy is a regulated occupation in Nova Scotia which means that you must be registered or licensed to work as a Respiratory Therapist.

To apply to be a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) you must apply to the Nova Scotia College of Respiratory Therapists (NSCRT). You will find information about competency assessment and the application process on the NSCRT website. **You can apply before you are approved to immigrate.**

<http://www.nscrt.ca/>

## **LANGUAGE**

- To work as a Respiratory Therapist in Nova Scotia, you need a high level of English language. You will need to take a language assessment. English language requirements can be found on the NSCRT website with other information for applicants educated outside of Canada.
- To apply to immigrate as a Federal Skilled Worker, you will also need to demonstrate language proficiency.

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/language-testing.asp>

- Start as soon as possible! Participate in English language classes in your home country. Try the “self-directed study online” language courses offered by ISIS. These are open to you even if you do not have immigration status.

<http://www.isisns.ca/english/english-for-work/>

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE LABOUR MARKET**

To explore the demand for respiratory therapists & related careers in Nova Scotia visit these two websites:

[www.careers.novascotia.ca/searchjobprofiles](http://www.careers.novascotia.ca/searchjobprofiles)

[www.careers.novascotia.ca/ns-labourmarket](http://www.careers.novascotia.ca/ns-labourmarket)

To prepare a resume that meets Canadian standards, look at the following resource. It is important to include details about your education & work experience, but do not include personal information about your age, marital status, family, religion etc. Canadian resumes also do not include photos.

<http://careers.novascotia.ca/resumes>

## **FINDING EMPLOYMENT**

To immigrate to Canada as a Skilled Worker or to enter as a Temporary Foreign Worker, you need to have an “arranged job offer”. This is a challenge. These links may help you find potential employers in Nova Scotia.

- <http://www.careerbeacon.com/Healthcare/lang=en><http://www.careerbeacon.com/Healthcare/lang=en>
- [www.careers.novascotia.ca/searchjobs](http://www.careers.novascotia.ca/searchjobs)
- <https://jobs.cdha.nshealth.ca/>
- <http://www.careerbeacon.com/corpprof/healthcarens/healthcarens.html>
- <http://www.hpclearinghouse.ca>
- <http://www.workingincanada.gc.ca>

## **GETTING SETTLED IN NOVA SCOTIA**

Once you are approved to immigrate, Immigrant Settlement & Integration Services (ISIS) can provide additional programs and services to help with employment, language learning and general settlement in the province of Nova Scotia. You can start these programs before you arrive.

- Pre-arrival? Register online at: <http://www.novascotiastart.ca>
- Already in Nova Scotia? Register at: <http://www.isans.ca/>

***Detailed information on how to apply for registration with the Nova Scotia College of Respiratory Therapists please review all information in the following guide.***

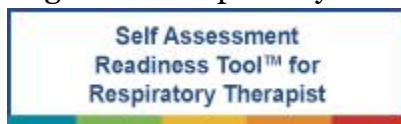
## Guide for Applicants Educated Outside of Canada

Applicants who received their professional education outside of Canada must have their credentials assessed and competencies assessed to determine if their education and experience developed the competencies required to enter practice as a Respiratory Therapist in Nova Scotia.

The following information outlines how this is done.

### Self Assessment Readiness Tool (SART)

It is recommended that applicants perform a Self Assessment Readiness Tool (SART) available online. This assessment will assist you in determining whether your education and background will provide you with the necessary skills required to work as a Registered Respiratory Therapist in Nova Scotia.



<http://www.atlanticcanadahealthcare.com/default.asp?mn=1.20.326>

### Other Resources:

**National Competency Profile (NCP)**  
available through the Canadian Society of  
Respiratory Therapists.

[http://www.csrt.com/en/education/national\\_competency\\_profile.asp](http://www.csrt.com/en/education/national_competency_profile.asp)

### Who can apply?

- Registered Respiratory Therapists who were educated in a Respiratory program outside of Canada. The RRT must show proof of being in active practice as an RT with a minimum 1500 hours in the last 4 years.

- Internationally educated physicians who are specialists in anesthesia who show proof of being in active practice in their country or elsewhere in the last 4 years with a minimum of 1500 hours.

## Language Requirement

If your native language is not English, and your relevant health care education was not in English, you will need to submit documentation to demonstrate fluency in English. The assessment process can begin when an applicant achieves a level 7 IELTS.

### **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**

Reading	7
Writing	7
Listening	7
Speaking	7
<b>Overall</b>	<b>7</b>

The above score includes the Standard Error of Measurement (**SEM**)

The applicant is responsible for the costs associated with the language proficiency tests and for obtaining confirmation.

## World Education Services Canada (WES)

If you were educated outside of Canada, you must have your credentials assessed by World Education Services (WES). WES will complete a credential evaluation, attest to the authenticity of the documents reviewed and prepare a course-by-course evaluation report. WES will send the evaluation report to the NSCRT and the applicant. The applicant is responsible for the cost of this report and will be charged directly by WES for its services. To have your academic qualifications attested by WES please contact their evaluation team at

[www.wes.org/ca](http://www.wes.org/ca)

## **Application to the NSCRT for Competency Assessment**

*Language, skill, competency and experience will be assessed at all points within the following steps. The registration and assessment process may be terminated at any time by the applicant or the NSCRT if criteria for competency are not met. Fees are structured so that payment will be made before advancing to the subsequent processes.*

### **Step 1:**

#### **Application Process**

***The following will be submitted to the NSCRT:***

- 1. Pre-registration Form-** Completed, signed and dated. The form can be found on the NSCRT website.
- 2. Registration results** from any applications made to Respiratory Therapy or any other licensed health care professions in Nova Scotia or other Canadian jurisdictions.
- 3. Registration Verification Form** to be completed by the applicant and forwarded to the regulatory body in the jurisdiction(s) in which you have been registered as a respiratory Therapist or other health profession. The licensing body will then forward the completed form directly to the NSCRT.
- 4. Letter(s) of reference** from past employers. Provide a letter of reference from each employer in which you have been practicing as a respiratory therapist or anesthetist over the past five years.
- 5. Competency Portfolio**  
Each candidate is to submit a portfolio that identifies how they meet each occupational standard through education and experience. The candidate should submit evidence which can include job descriptions, performance appraisals, publications, types of equipment used in practice, to name a few. Portfolios are scored to determine if they meet the standards.

**Fee for submission and review of the above paperwork:**

**\$250** made payable to the NSCRT

**Step 2:****Interviews****Orientation interview**

The purpose of the orientation interview is to introduce the candidate and assessor and:

- a) To inform candidate of the competency assessment process and address any questions from the candidate.
- b) To explore the candidate's intentions and motivations
- c) To gather further information about the candidate's education and experience

**Competency Interview**

This structured interview is designed to explore and validate specific competencies that are identified through the first portfolio review. The interview may require the candidate to discuss situations where they performed specific respiratory therapy competencies or may present the candidate with a clinical case and ask them to describe how they would care for the patient. The interview will be conducted by at least 2 competency assessors.

**Fee for Interviews: \$750** made payable to the NSCRT

**Step 3:****Skills Assessment**

Skills Assessment will occur using various techniques and assessment tools. These include but are not limited to the following:

**Written Examination**

- a) To test knowledge and comprehension
- b) To prepare candidates for national entry to practice exam - Canadian Board for Respiratory Care Exam



## **Lab Demonstration:**

The purpose of lab demonstration is to enable the candidate to demonstrate specific skills that are required to treat patients in practice. The candidate will be required to set up specific therapies and explain why they chose their method.

## **Lab Simulation:**

The lab simulation is a comprehensive scenario based assessment. The candidate must perform multiple competencies in a simulated clinical scenario. Skills assessment will occur over the course of one and one-half days.

The following competencies will be required to be performed in person via lab demonstration or simulation and are required in order for an individual to be considered for licensure in Nova Scotia:

1. Patient Assessment
2. Pharmacology
3. Bronchopulmonary Hygiene
4. Airway Management
5. Ventilation Management
6. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Stabilization
7. Pulmonary Diagnostics and Investigation
8. Adjunct Therapy

**Fee for Skills Assessment: \$1500** made payable to the NSCRT

## **Step 4:**

### **Final Report**

Each Applicant will be provided with a final report which will detail the areas that the candidate has met, partially met or not met the required competencies. The candidate will be given recommendations for methods to obtain any required bridging, education, clinical experience or to enroll in a full accredited Canadian Respiratory Therapy Program.

When a candidate has fully met all of the required competencies the NSCRT Registrar will recommend the candidate to the Canadian Board of Respiratory Care (CBRC) as eligible to write the entry to practice exam. The CBRC charges a fee to write the exam. For fees and other information on the CBRC exam please visit: [www.CBRC.ca](http://www.CBRC.ca)

In the event that a candidate successfully completes the CBRC exam, the Registrar of the NSCRT will submit their name and completed assessment to the credentials committee of the NSCRT and request approval to grant them a valid license.

To practice respiratory therapy in Nova Scotia, you must be a registered member with the NSCRT and hold a valid license.

Please note that you may not work as a respiratory therapist or in any way hold yourself out as a person qualified to practice respiratory therapy in the province of Nova Scotia until after your application for registration has been completed and have confirmed your registration (license) by the NSCRT.

### **Documents to be sent to:**

#### **Registrar**

Nova Scotia College of Respiratory Therapists  
1959 Upper Water Street, Suite 1301  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 3N2  
Canada

Email: [registrar@nscrt.com](mailto:registrar@nscrt.com)

Facsimile: (902) 23-3229

### **Other Resources:**

## **Orientation to the Canadian Health Care System for Internationally Educated Health Care Professionals**

This program is provided by the Registered Nurses Professional Development Centre (RNPDC) twice a year. There are 3-hour weekly sessions provided over a 10 week period.

For more information go to: [www.rnpdc.nshealth.ca](http://www.rnpdc.nshealth.ca).

Entrance to these courses require Canadian Language Benchmark Level 6-7

Fees are payable to the RNPDC

## **Orientation to the Canadian Health Care System, Culture, and Context**

This program is offered on-line through the University of Toronto three times per year. The course is designed for international health care professionals who are in the process of becoming licensed in Canada. For more information about this course and how to apply go to:

<http://iehpcanada.utoronto.ca>

The NSCRT requires that candidates complete one of these programs before they can be recommended to write the national entry to practice exam - the CBRC exam.