

# Relocating to Practice as a Nurse in British Columbia, Canada

## A Quick Reference Guide to Registration and Immigration



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## Registration

Registration in British Columbia is mandatory to practice as a Registered Nurse or as a Registered Psychiatric Nurse. Your education preparation determines which British Columbia regulatory body you would register with.

- Generalist prepared registered nurses should apply for registration with the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC)
- Registered Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurses should apply for registration with the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of British Columbia (CRPNBC)
- Generalist prepared registered nurses with a post basic certificate in psychiatry/mental health may register with either CRNBC or CRPNBC or both

### College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC)

#### College Requirements

- Completion of nursing program deemed equivalent to BC which includes theory and clinical in medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics, and psychiatry
- Proof of competence to practice based on education and practice hours
- Passing results of English fluency test if English is not your first language

#### What You Need to Do to Initiate your Registration

- Complete all College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC) registration forms. These forms are available on-line at: <http://www.crnbc.ca/RegRenewal/Applying/OrderApplication.aspx>
- Pass CRNBC-approved English fluency tests if English is not your first language before submitting your registration application. (English fluency fact sheet <http://www.crnbc.ca/downloads/501.pdf>)
- Provide CRNBC reference and transcript forms to employer and educational institutions

#### What the College of Registered Nurses of BC does

- Sends you a letter confirming your application has been received
- Notifies you of any outstanding documents including verifications from other regulatory bodies, references, and transcripts. Your assessment will not be done until all outstanding documents have been received.
- Assesses your application to determine if you are eligible to write the Canadian Registered Nurse Exam. This exam measures the competencies required of entry-level nurses for safe and effective practice. The exam is offered three times a year. Study guides and readiness tests are available at <http://readiness.cna-aiic.ca/english/default.aspx>



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- Sends you a letter advising the outcome of the assessment. Before being allowed to write the Canadian Registered Nurse Exam, you may be required to complete:
  - additional practice hours
  - take qualifying programs such as maternal/newborn nursing or psychiatry
- Sends you a Criminal Record Consent form
- Proceeds with Criminal Record check upon receipt of the completed consent form and fee
- Sends a letter informing you that you are eligible for College of Registered Nurses of BC Temporary Registration

#### Temporary Registration

- Allows you to practice as a nurse in British Columbia while you wait to write the Canadian Registered Nurse Exam and obtain the results
- Temporary registration is time limited to a maximum of 9 months

**Please note: After being advised by the CRNBC that you are eligible for Temporary Registration, you should contact your employer to initiate the immigration process.**

#### When working in British Columbia

- After you have worked in Canada for a minimum of 250 hours your employer is required to complete the Canadian Employer Reference Form posted on the CRNBC website
- Apply to write the Canadian Registered Nurse Exam. Schedule an exam date for approximately 8 – 12 weeks after your anticipated arrival in British Columbia to provide an opportunity to settle in.

#### Resources

CRNBC website  
[www.crnbc.ca](http://www.crnbc.ca)

International Applicants  
<http://www.crnbc.ca/RegRenewal/Applying/InternatApplicant.aspx>



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## College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of British Columbia (CRPNBC)

### College Requirements

- Graduate of, or specialized certification in, mental health or psychiatric nursing
- Proof of competence to practice based on education and practice hours
- Passing results of English fluency test if English is not your first language

### What you Need to Do

- Complete all College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of BC registration and criminal record consent forms. These forms can be ordered on-line at [www.crpnb.ca](http://www.crpnb.ca)
- Provide CRPNBC reference and transcript forms to employer and educational institutions

### What the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of BC does

- Sends you a letter confirming your application has been received
- Notifies you of any outstanding documents including verifications from other regulatory bodies, references, and transcripts. Your assessment will not be done until all outstanding documents have been received.
- Assesses your application to determine if you are eligible to write the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of British Columbia Registration Exam
- Sends you a letter advising the outcome of the assessment. If you are eligible to practice in British Columbia you will be issued an Interim Registration Practice Permit while waiting to write the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurse Registration Exam.

### Interim Registration Practice Permits

- Allows you to practice as a registered psychiatric nurse in British Columbia while you wait to write the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurse Registration Exam and obtain the results
- Interim Permit is limited to 3 months

**Please note: After being advised by the CRPNBC that you are eligible for Interim Registration, you should contact your employer to initiate the immigration process.**

### College of Registered Psychiatric Nurse Registration Exam

- Examination dates offered at mutually convenient times
- Held over two consecutive days
- Outline available at [http://www.crpnb.ca/orientation\\_exam.pdf](http://www.crpnb.ca/orientation_exam.pdf)



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## Tips to Ease Your Registration

- Ensure all documents are completed with attention to detail
- Ask permission of referees, and for timely response to College requests
- Maintain a file for yourself with copies of all documents and forms completed
- Note date sent and method of sending of all paperwork



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# IMMIGRATION

When you receive a full-time offer of employment and have obtained eligibility to practice as a nurse in British Columbia you may choose from the following two immigration options:

## 1) Temporary Work Permit

- Allows you to work in Canada for a specific employer for three years. This permit is renewable.
- Spouses may apply to work in Canada

### What you Need to Do

- Download application forms from [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)
- Complete forms and gather required documents
- Mail application and required fees to the High Commission or nearest Citizenship and Immigration Canada Visa Office

### What the Employer does

- Forwards you the employer documents to be included in your immigration application package

### What Citizenship and Immigration Canada Visa Office does

- Sends a letter confirming your application has been received. You will be provided a Medical Report Application form to be taken to a designated Medical Practitioner. A list of designated Medical Practitioners will be sent with the form.

**Please note: If you submit an incomplete immigration application, your application will be returned to you.**

- Sends a letter informing you of the outcome of the work permit application. Successful work permit applicants are provided with a letter of introduction and next step instructions.
- Applications for Temporary Work permits take approximately 4-5 months to be processed

## 2) Provincial Nominee Program

- Fast tracking program for obtaining permanent residency status in Canada for you and your family
- Requires employer sponsorship

### What you Need to Do

- Download application forms from [http://www.ecdev.gov.bc.ca/ProgramsAndServices/PNP/so\\_appforms.htm](http://www.ecdev.gov.bc.ca/ProgramsAndServices/PNP/so_appforms.htm)



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- Complete application forms and submit **copies only** to your employer for submission to Health Match BC
- Gather required supporting documents such as police record consent forms that must be included with your original application to Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Once notification of successful nomination has been received from the British Columbia Ministry of Economic Development, submit your original application for permanent residency documents to the High Commission or nearest Citizenship and Immigration Visa office

**Note: You may apply for a Temporary Work Permit that will allow you to work sooner than waiting for your permanent residency. The application for a Temporary Work Permit is submitted along with your application for Permanent Residency. Both applications are processed simultaneously.**

#### **What the Employer does**

- Completes required employer forms and submits these forms with your photocopied application package to Health Match BC

#### **What Health Match BC does**

- Reviews the complete application package and if there are omissions or errors Health Match BC will notify you and request correction
- Once your application is accurate and complete, Health Match BC will submit it to the British Columbia Ministry of Economic Development responsible for processing nominations to the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program

#### **What the British Columbia Ministry of Economic Development does**

- Notifies you of successful nomination and issues a certificate of nomination and letter for submission with your original application for permanent residency to Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Assigns a Provincial Nominee Program Consultant who is responsible for your file and may contact you directly if necessary

#### **What Citizenship and Immigration Canada Visa Office does**

- Sends you a letter confirming your application has been received
- Notifies you and your family of any outstanding documents. You will be provided a Medical Report Application form to be taken to a designated Medical Practitioner. A list of designated Medical Practitioners will be sent with the form.
- Sends a letter advising you of the outcome of your permanent residency application and provides next step instructions
- Applications for permanent residency through the Provincial Nominee Program take approximately 8-10 months for processing



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# Internationally Educated Registered Nurse Recruitment Immigration Options

## Requirements for application:

- Assessment by Nurse Registration body (College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia or College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of British Columbia) and current eligibility for a temporary permit.
- Offer of **full-time** employment.

### Temporary Work Permit

Employer submits internationally educated worker application to local Human Resources and Social Development – Service Canada office (HRSDC).

HRSDC sends Labour Market Opinion letter approving internationally educated worker. Employer sends the letter to the Nurse.

Nurse submits this letter along with a temporary resident visa application, documents and fees to **Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Visa Office**.

CIC issues the Nurse an Immigration file number and instructs the Nurse to go for an Immigration medical. *(Medical results may take from a few weeks to several months to process depending on the country where the medical is done.)*

Once applicant is notified of successful receipt of the temporary resident visa they may make their travel plans to Canada.

### Provincial Nominee Program (permanent residence status)

Employer and Nurse complete PNP and Immigration forms and submit copy to **Health Match BC** for review.

Health Match BC reviews and if application is complete, forwards to the **Ministry of Economic Development** for approval.

Ministry sends the Nurse a PNP nomination letter (copies the Employer in on the nomination).

Nurse submits this letter along with Immigration application, documents and fees to **Citizenship and Immigration Visa Office**.

CIC issues the Nurse an Immigration file number and instructs the Nurse to go for an Immigration medical. *(Medical results may take a few weeks to several months to process depending on the country where the medical is done.)*

Once applicant is notified of successful receipt of Permanent Resident Status they may make their travel plans to Canada.

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