

Physiotherapist

Physiotherapists in New Brunswick

Physiotherapy is the fifth-largest regulated occupation in Canada. One-half of all physiotherapists work in or own a private practice. Other physiotherapists work in hospitals, rehabilitation centres, patients' homes, nursing homes, summer camps, schools, sports centres and industrial work sites.

In New Brunswick, as well as across Canada, physiotherapy is a regulated profession. To work as a physiotherapist and use the title "physiotherapist" or "physical therapist" or to provide physiotherapy services in New Brunswick, you must be registered with the College of Physiotherapists of New Brunswick (CPTNB) (www.cptnb.ca) and complete all the requirements of the foreign qualification recognition process.

The College of Physiotherapists of New Brunswick (CPTNB) is a not-for-profit organization with the legislated mandate to regulate the practice of physiotherapy in the public interest.

Foreign qualification recognition is the process of verifying that the knowledge, skills, work experience and education obtained in another country are comparable to the standards established for Canadian professionals and tradespersons.

How do I get my credentials recognized?

If you are a first-time applicant and want to become a registered physiotherapist in New Brunswick, and you have completed your physiotherapy education outside of Canada, you must fulfil the following basic requirements:

1. Confirmation that your education and credentials have been approved by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (Alliance).
2. Proof of successful completion of the Physiotherapy Competency Exam (PCE) – both written and clinical components (PCE-W) and (PCE-C).
3. Completion of the CPTNB application form and provision of all required documentation and payment of fees.

Step One: Confirmation of education and credentials

The Alliance's Educational Credentials and Qualifications Assessment (www.alliancept.org) reviews your credentials and determines if they are equivalent to those of a Canadian trained physiotherapist. You can begin this before you come to Canada. To complete this process you will need to:

- prove your language skills or take a language test.
- pay fees for the assessment. For detailed information on the assessment, visit www.alliancept.org.

Step Two: Write the PCE

To become a registered physiotherapist in New Brunswick you must pass the PCE administered by the Alliance.

The PCE has two parts: a written component and a clinical component. You must pass the written component before you can take the clinical component. For information about the PCE, go to www.alliancept.org.

You are also responsible for paying the fees to take the examinations.

Step Three: Registering with CPTNB

After you receive confirmation of your education by the Alliance and have successfully taken the PCE, you can apply for registration with CPTNB.

To be eligible to apply for registration in New Brunswick, you must:

- complete an application form(s) to be sent with all details and required support material;
- pay fees;
- provide proof of active practice hours within the previous five years;
- provide proof of successful completion of the Alliance credentialling and PCE, or equivalent through “grand parenting” or labour mobility;
- submit a letter of membership in good standing from all current and previous regulatory organizations where you have practised and/or been registered. CPTNB requires a letter or form – no older than three months since issued – that includes dates of registration, category of registration, notice of outstanding, or history of, complaints/discipline, and, preferably, a report of practice hours. Some regulators require a fee for this service and anywhere from a few days to several weeks’ notice. The original of this verification letter or document must be sent directly to CPTNB, by mail or fax. From non-regulated areas, employer letters may suffice and timelines may vary for international applicants. Contact CPTNB for more information;
- provide proof of individual professional liability insurance (in addition to employer coverage if employer has coverage);
- submit two letters of reference of the applicant’s good character as being consistent with the responsibilities of a member and the standards expected of a member;

- provide one copy – NOTARIZED – of your physiotherapy degree. You must meet with a registered, practising lawyer, present personal identification and the original diploma from which a copy or copies can be, or have been, made. The lawyer must sign, seal and/ or attach an affidavit to the copy or copies). It is recommended that several copies be made and retained in personal files for other purposes in future;
- provide proof of Canadian citizenship, permanent resident status, or authorization under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada)*; and
- provide proof of comprehension of the English or French language sufficient to enable practise as a physiotherapist.

Finding a job in New Brunswick

There is a need for physiotherapists in both big cities and smaller communities across New Brunswick; you can also find jobs in one of the two official languages of the province: English or French.

You should take time to research job requirements and develop a plan for finding work. You can ask for help. There are many resources available that you can use before coming to New Brunswick and after you are here.

There are many resources available to help you find employment in New Brunswick, including immigrant-serving agencies and job banks. Visit www.gnb.ca/immigration.

Additional resources

New Brunswick Immigration Portal
www.gnb.ca/immigration

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
www.cic.gc.ca

Service Canada
www.servicecanada.gc.ca

Foreign Credentials Referral Office
www.credentials.gc.ca

Service New Brunswick www.snb.ca

NB Jobs www.nbjobs.ca

Working in New Brunswick Tool
www.gnb.ca/immigration

Government of Canada Job Bank
www.jobbank.gc.ca

Before you arrive

While you are waiting to come to New Brunswick, there are many important things you can do to improve your chances of success. You can start collecting all the required documents for credential recognition listed on the CPTNB website.

The Foreign Credentials Referral Office (www.credentials.gc.ca) is an organization of the Government of Canada that provides helpful resources. The Government of New Brunswick also has specially designed tools to help you make Canada your home. Please visit www.gnb.ca/immigration.

If your education was not completed in either English or French, you are required to fulfill a language proficiency test which assesses listening, reading, writing and speaking.

If you need to improve your language skills, start before you come to Canada.