

## Occupational Therapist (OT)

### Occupational Therapists in New Brunswick

The primary goal of occupational therapy is to enable people to participate in the activities that give meaning and purpose to their lives. Occupational therapists work in community agencies and health-care organizations such as hospitals, chronic care facilities and rehabilitation centres.

Some occupational therapists work with clients within a specific age group or disability, such as those with arthritis, mental illness or spinal cord injury.

In New Brunswick, as well as across Canada, occupational therapy is a regulated profession. To work as an occupational therapist, you must be licensed by the New Brunswick Association of Occupational Therapists (NBAOT).

### How do I get my credentials recognized?

The assessment and licensing of Internationally Educated Occupational Therapists (IEOTs) is a three-step process involving academic, professional and employment eligibility.

#### Step One: Academic Eligibility (Credentials)

IEOTs must have a degree from a program that meets the standards set by the regulatory organization or government in the province where they want to practise.

**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.**

In New Brunswick, degree programs that are recognized by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) may also be recognized by the regulatory organization.

WFOT recognizes educational programs from over 57 member countries which have met a baseline for education and training of occupational therapists. To see if your degree is recognized by WFOT, visit [www.caot.ca](http://www.caot.ca).

**The New Brunswick Association of Occupational Therapists (NBAOT) is a professional regulatory organization that exists to advance quality occupational therapy in the interest of public protection and to represent occupational therapists province-wide by advancing standards of education and practice, and shaping health policy.**

In general, the following must be completed to establish academic eligibility:

- completed application form to the provincial registrar, including payment of application fee;
- copy of degree and official transcripts;
- course descriptions;
- Curriculum Vitae; and,
- credentials assessment report from third-party assessors ([www.canalliance.org](http://www.canalliance.org)).

For IEOTs graduating from a WFOT recognized program, only a basic assessment is required. For IEOTs who obtained their education and training from a non-WFOT program, a more substantial assessment is required in order to compare the program against Canadian standards. This assessment may be completed by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT).

If Step One reveals gaps in education, the applicant may enrol in a university program to upgrade skills or gain practical experience.

#### Step Two: Professional Eligibility

Upon successful completion of the credential reviewing process, the applicant becomes eligible to take the National Occupational Therapy

Certification Examination. The written examination is administered by CAOT and is offered twice a year in cities across Canada.

Professional eligibility also includes the attainment of language proficiency in either English or French. Although NBAOT does not require formal testing at this time, it is generally accepted that occupational therapists are required to meet the following Canadian Language Benchmarks:

- Speaking: 8-9
- Listening: 9
- Reading: 8-9
- Writing: 8

The applicant's work history is verified to ensure the required hours of clinical fieldwork or professional practice have been met.

### Step Three: Employment Eligibility

A full license will be granted to the applicant by the New Brunswick Association of Occupational Therapists once the exam has been successfully passed, proof of insurance coverage has been provided, and any other required documentation has been submitted. For more information, please contact the New Brunswick Association of Occupational Therapists.

A provisional license may be granted to IEOs who have not yet successfully completed the CAOT certification exam but are registered for the next sitting.

## Finding a job in New Brunswick

There is a need for OTs in various communities across the province and in both official languages.

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

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](http://www.gnb.ca/immigration).

### Additional resources

New Brunswick Association of Occupational Therapists (NBAOT) [www.nbaot.org](http://www.nbaot.org)

World Federation of Occupational Therapists [www.wfot.org](http://www.wfot.org)

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists [www.caot.ca](http://www.caot.ca)

New Brunswick Immigration Portal [www.gnb.ca/immigration](http://www.gnb.ca/immigration)

Citizenship and Immigration Canada [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

Service Canada [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca)

Foreign Credentials Referral Office [www.credentials.gc.ca](http://www.credentials.gc.ca)

Service New Brunswick [www.snb.ca](http://www.snb.ca)

IEHP Atlantic Connection [www.atlanticcanadahealthcare.ca](http://www.atlanticcanadahealthcare.ca)

NB Jobs [www.nbjobs.ca](http://www.nbjobs.ca)

Working in New Brunswick Tool [www.gnb.ca/immigration](http://www.gnb.ca/immigration)

### 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 qualification recognition.

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