



Lawyers

Pathway to Registration for Internationally Educated Professionals (IEP) in New Brunswick

Lawyers are regulated professionals in New Brunswick (NB). You must be registered with the [Law Society of New Brunswick \(LSNB\)](#)—the regulatory authority—to practice and use the titles of Lawyer, practising lawyer, barrister, barrister-at-law, solicitor, attorney-at-law, legal adviser, and member of the Bar, or any similar title, designation, or abbreviation.

Lawyers advise clients on legal matters, represent clients before administration boards and draw up legal documents such as contracts and wills. They also plead cases, represent clients before tribunals and conduct prosecutions in courts of law. Lawyers are employed in law firms and prosecutor's offices. They are employed by federal, provincial and municipal governments and various business establishments or they may be self-employed.¹

For work opportunities and other information, visit [NBjobs.ca](#).



STEPS TO REGISTRATION

PART 1: COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

Step 1 – Academic Credentials: The minimum educational requirement to practice law in New Brunswick is a bachelor's degree (LL.B. or J.D.) approved by the [Federation of Law Societies of Canada](#)—or equivalent. Internationally educated lawyers must apply to the [National Committee on Accreditation \(NCA\)](#) to have their law credentials evaluated before applying to the LSNB. Applications and supporting documentation are submitted [online](#). The NCA will assess your legal education and experience against the [National Requirement](#) and [NCA Policies](#) and inform you of the steps you must take to qualify for bar admission with the LSNB ("assignments"). Current fees may be found [here](#).

Step 2 – Language Proficiency: Proficiency in English or French² is required for NCA Assessment. If your qualifying law degree was completed in English or French in a country where one of these is an official language, a language test is not needed. Otherwise, a language proficiency assessment meeting [NCA benchmarks](#) is required. Third party testing fees may apply.

Step 3 – Complete Assignments: Your NCA [Assignments](#) will depend on your specific circumstances, including the [legal tradition](#) of your education and experience (i.e., Common Law, Mixed Law, or Non-Common Law jurisdictions). These assignments typically involve NCA exams, or courses at a Canadian Law School, or both, as well as a course in legal research and writing (such as the module with the [Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education—CPLED](#)). After completing your assignments, you will receive a Certificate of Qualification. NCA exams are offered monthly online (though not all exams are available each month). Canadian Law School course schedules and fees vary by institution. Current NCA exam fees can be found [here](#) and CPLED fees [here](#).

¹ [National Occupational Classification \(NOC\)](#) definition.

² English and French are the official languages of New Brunswick.

PART 2: REGISTRATION WITH THE NEW BRUNSWICK REGULATORY BODY

Step 4 – Bar Admission Program: Once you have your NCA Certificate of Qualification, you may apply to the LSNB by submitting [Form 12 Application for Admission of a Person Admitted to Practice Outside Canada](#). Based on the review of your application, you must complete the required [LSNB bar admission program](#) elements which include online and in-person training, exams, and a period of articling³ (i.e., supervised work experience). Current fees may be found [here](#).

Step 5 – Be called to the Bar: After successful completion of the bar admission program, candidates must apply for admission as a lawyer by submitting the Bar admission forms identified by LSNB and paying the fee. Eligible candidates will be called to the bar where they must take the Barristers and Solicitors' oath and be presented at the Court of Appeal during an admission ceremony before beginning practice. Practising lawyers must pay annual membership dues and mandatory professional liability insurance. Current fees may be found [here](#).

If you're in New Brunswick: Contact a [WorkingNB office](#) for help navigating the registration process and to access employment counselling services.



REGISTRATION COSTS AND TIMELINE⁴

The total fees to become a practicing LSNB member can vary depending on individual requirements for NCA assignments and bar admission program elements. If five NCA exams, the CPLED course, and the full LSNB bar admission program are needed, fees will be approximately \$15,300 CAD. The timeline may also vary based on individual circumstances. The NCA assessment takes 6-8 weeks from receiving a complete application; NCA exams must be scheduled; and the LSNB bar admission program spans a year. Overall, the process may take approximately 1.5 to 2 years.

Pre-arrival: You may complete the NCA assessment and apply to the LSNB before arriving in Canada.



WORKING IN NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

To work legally in Canada, you must be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident, or hold a valid work permit. For immigration assistance, visit [Immigration New Brunswick](#). If you are already in Canada, WorkingNB employment counsellors are available to assist you prior to your arrival in New Brunswick. Email: vecs.svce@gnb.ca to set up an appointment.



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³ During the articling period, candidates may apply for a provisional licence (student-at law) and work within a limited scope of practice.

⁴ Fee and timeline estimates are as of October 2024 and are subject to change. Individual situations may increase costs and timelines—some examples include: document translation into English or French, international couriers, document notarization, travel and living to exam sites, any professional liability insurance requirements, etc.