



Skilled Trades

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

[Skilled Trades NB](#) (STNB), a branch of the Department of Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour (PETL), is responsible for the certification of skilled trades professionals in New Brunswick (NB).

Eighty two ([82 designated occupations](#)) currently fall under the New Brunswick [Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Act](#). Twelve (12) of these are compulsory occupations, meaning that to practice, you must hold a certificate of qualification (CQ) or be registered as an apprentice. The remaining seventy (70) are voluntary occupations. There are forty-five (45) apprenticeable occupations in New Brunswick.

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



STEPS TO REGISTRATION

PART 1: COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

Step 1 – Contact a Counsellor: Each skilled trade in NB has specific competency and [experience requirements](#) that must be met. The recommended first step is to contact an [Apprenticeship regional office](#) and speak to a counsellor who guide you through the pathway to certification based on your competencies. They will provide the necessary forms and outline the required supporting documentation. This may include but is not limited to a certificate of Qualification (CQ) application form, Employer Confirmation forms (one for each employer), and information from training providers (e.g., transcripts, curriculum descriptions, etc.). Current fees can be found [here](#).

Step 2 – Language Proficiency: While STNB has no specific language proficiency benchmark, applicants must be able to speak, read, and write in either English or French¹. Certification exams generally require proficiency a level equivalent to a [Canadian Language Benchmark \(CLB\)](#) of 7-8. Language proficiency may also be required for employment or immigration purposes.

PART 2: REGISTRATION WITH SKILLED TRADES NB

Based on the STNB Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process, you may be granted advance standing in the apprenticeship program, deemed eligible to write the certification exam, or directly awarded a CQ. In all cases, you must be legally entitled to work in New Brunswick (see below) and provide proof of a job opportunity in the province before applying or registering.

Step 3 – Apprenticeship: Apprenticeship in New Brunswick is a Post-Secondary Education program that requires the participation of three partners: the apprentice, the employer (including the supervising journey person) and the government Skilled Trades NB). Most apprenticeship programs take two to four years to complete, combining approximately 80% paid on-the-job training with 20% technical or in-school learning.

Your PLAR may grant you advance standing in the apprenticeship program. Depending on how closely your credentials align with Canadian standards, you may receive credit for some or all of your

¹ English and French are the official languages of New Brunswick.

[experience hours](#). You may also be eligible to challenge specific examinations. You must then complete the remainder of your apprenticeship. Upon completion, you will receive a Diploma of Apprenticeship. Current fees may be found [here](#).

Step 4 – Certification Examination: Once you complete your apprenticeship requirements, or if your PLAR shows that you meet the requirements for your trade, you may apply to write the Certification exam. Certification exams are offered annually. Current fees may be found [here](#).

Step 5 – Certificate of Qualification (CQ): Upon successfully passing the certification exam, you will be awarded a Certificate of Qualification for your trade.

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 TIMELINE²

The fees for obtaining a CQ in a specific trade vary depending on whether ongoing apprenticeship training is required. Total fees to cover registration, the Assessment of Foreign Credentials, and writing the certification exam will be approximately \$375 CAD. The CQ assessment can take 1-2 weeks, the PLAR 2-4 weeks, and certification exams are offered monthly. The overall timeline to achieve certification as a journeyman will vary based on the trade, and your status in the apprenticeship program.

Pre-arrival: You may contact a Counsellor at an [Apprenticeship regional office](#) to discuss your certification pathway 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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² Fee and timeline estimates are as of February 2025 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, professional liability insurance requirements, etc.