



# Veterinarians

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

Veterinarians are regulated professionals in New Brunswick (NB). Registration with the [New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association \(NBVMA\)](#)—the regulatory authority—is required to practise and use the titles "veterinarian," "duly qualified veterinarian," "licensed veterinarian", "veterinary surgeon", "doctor of veterinary medicine", "D.V.M.", or other similar words or abbreviations as outlined in [An Act Respecting The New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association](#).

Veterinarians prevent, diagnose and treat diseases and disorders in animals and advise clients on the feeding, hygiene, housing and general care of animals. They can also perform surgical procedures. They work in private practice or may be employed by animal clinics, farms, laboratories, government or industry.<sup>1</sup>

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



## STEPS TO REGISTRATION

A Certificate of Qualification (CQ) issued by the [National Examination Board \(NEB\)](#) of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is required to be considered for registration with NBMVA.

### PART 1: COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

**Step 1 – Language Proficiency:** The NEB requires proof of language proficiency in English or French<sup>2</sup>. A language test is not required if the veterinary medicine degree was completed entirely in English or French, or if the candidate has been granted certification by the [Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates \(ECFVG\)](#). All others must submit a language proficiency assessment meeting [NEB benchmarks](#). Third-party testing fees may apply.

**Step 2 – Academic Credential Assessment:** The minimum educational requirement to practise in NB is graduation from a university program accredited by the [American Veterinary Medical Association-Council on Education \(AVMA-CoE\)](#). All graduates of non-Canadian programs must complete the NEB application process. Candidates must create a profile in the [NEB Candidate Portal](#), submit all [required documentation](#)<sup>3</sup>, and pay the [application fee](#). The NEB will assess the academic credentials and notify candidates if their application has been approved, allowing them to register for the required exams.

**Step 3 – Examinations:** Candidates from accredited programs are required to complete the [North American Veterinary Licensing Examination \(NAVLE\)](#) only. Candidates from non-accredited programs must complete all four examinations: the [Basic and Clinical Sciences Examination \(BCSE\)](#), the NAVLE, the [Preliminary Surgical Assessment \(PSA\)](#), and the [Clinical Proficiency Examination \(CPE\)](#).

The BCSE is the first examination required for graduates of non-accredited programs. It is a computer-based, four-hour examination offered on a continuous basis and administered by [Prometric](#) at test centres throughout Canada, the United States, and internationally.

The NAVLE is a computer-based, seven-and-a-half-hour examination administered at [Prometric](#) test centres during three annual testing windows.

The PSA and CPE are clinical examinations offered at two Canadian locations. The PSA is a one-and-a-half-

<sup>1</sup> [National Occupational Classification \(NOC\)](#) definition.

<sup>2</sup> English and French are the official languages of New Brunswick.

<sup>3</sup> If applicable, translation into English or French by a certified translator is required.

hour qualifying examination required before attempting the CPE. The CPE is conducted over several days and assesses clinical medical and surgical competencies. Both examinations have separate waiting lists that may range from several months to over one year.

All exams require registration and payment through the NEB portal. Current fees can be found [here](#).

**Step 4 – NEB Certificate of Qualification (CQ):** Once all NEB requirements have been successfully completed, an electronic CQ is uploaded to the candidate’s NEB Portal account.

## PART 2: REGISTRATION WITH THE NEW BRUNSWICK REGULATORY BODY

**Step 5 – Temporary Licence:** A [temporary licence](#) permits supervised clinical practice. It is available to graduates from an accredited program who have not yet passed the NAVLE, as well as to candidates from non-accredited programs who have passed the BCSE and are registered to complete the remaining NEB examinations. Candidates must create an account in the NBVMA portal and upload the required documentation, including a completed [Temporary License Agreement](#) outlining supervision requirements, and pay the NBVMA and [CMVA](#) annual dues.

**Step 6 – Full Licence/Membership:** Once a candidate receives their CQ, they are eligible for a full licence upon payment of any outstanding NBVMA and CVMA dues.

**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 TIMELINE<sup>4</sup>

Total fees and timelines to become a fully licenced veterinarian in NB vary depending on individual circumstances. Candidates from accredited programs who pass the NAVLE on the first attempt can expect total fees of approximately \$5,400 CAD and a timeline of six months or more. Candidates from non-accredited programs who pass all exams on the first attempt can expect total fees of approximately \$19,000 CAD, with timelines commonly extending to two years or more. Additional costs and delays may result from language testing, document translation, exam retakes, and other factors. Candidates from non-accredited programs have up to seven years to complete the NEB process.

**Pre-arrival:** You may begin the credential assessment process and take the BSCE and NAVLE before you arrive 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](mailto:vecs.svce@gnb.ca) to set up an appointment.



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<sup>4</sup> Fee and timeline estimates are as of February 2026 and are subject to change. Individual situations may increase costs and timelines—some examples include: document translation, international couriers, travel and living related to education and exams, etc.