



Registration Requirements and Criteria for Assessing Applicants Psychologists Registered in Canada

Regulatory Transition Notice (December 2025) Effective **November 24, 2025**, the *Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology (NSBEP)* has transitioned to the **Nova Scotia Regulator of Psychology (NSRP)** under the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)*.

Under this framework, successful applicants under the **Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)** are typically eligible for direct entry to the **Practising Register**. Any legacy references to "NSBEP" or the "Register of Psychologists" within this document should be interpreted in accordance with these 2025 statutory designations.

This document is intended for applicants who possess full registration as a psychologist in Canada.

For greater clarity, this pathway is **not intended for those who:**

- possess registration in a country outside of Canada, or within Alberta or the Northwest Territories (please refer to the specific process for these scenarios).
- possess registration with a psychology regulatory body that constitutes a provisional type of registration
- possess registration as a psychologist but in a category that does not represent full registration, e.g. retired registration, non-practising registration, etc.
- possess exclusive registration with another profession, e.g., counselling, marriage and family therapy, etc. Such persons are instead referred to the [NS College of Counselling Therapists](#).

Transfer of Registration Requirement

In order to qualify for a transfer of registration to Nova Scotia under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), psychologists in Canada must possess full registration as a Psychologist or Psychological Associate, in good standing, in another Canadian province or territory, which is a signatory of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA),

Psychological work experience

As per the standards of practice in Nova Scotia, psychologists shall limit their delivery of services to those areas of competence as defined by verifiable training and experience.

As such, applicants would typically be authorized for the same area(s) of practice, activities, and populations that they possess in their home jurisdiction. The NSRP will review the Confirmation of Standing Form completed by the home jurisdiction and compare this to the areas of practice and populations that the applicant has declared on the Declaration of Psychological Practice with their application in Nova Scotia.

If registration is generic in the home jurisdiction, and the applicant feels there could be a discrepancy between registration in the home jurisdiction and their intentions for practice in Nova Scotia, they are encouraged to submit to the NSRP documentation of their training and experience working with the particular populations or activities. A good starting point would be for the applicant to provide a copy of their CV that fully documents all relevant work experience. If the declared practice area(s) and/or population(s) are not consistent with those possessed by the applicant in their home jurisdiction, and not consistent with their experience and training, the NSRP may decline to approve the area of practice or population that is not supported by the application. The NSRP has the ability to [restrict the practice](#) of a psychologist where appropriate.

Some applicants have been under the impression that during the application they should declare activities and populations with which they are unfamiliar because they might like to pursue such work in future. Here are some examples (that should not be considered exhaustive). It would be inappropriate to declare children as a population to be served if one has not had such experience as part of their practicum or internship, or appropriate training and experience. Similarly, it would be incongruous to offer couples counselling or psychoeducational assessments without first having such experience. Detailed guidelines have been developed that will assist in completing the Psychological Practice Profile and these should be thoroughly reviewed:

https://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/Practice_Profile_Revised_Instructions.pdf

The intention of the Declaration of Psychological Practice, which is part of the Online Application for Registration, is to realistically consider what one would be carrying out in their candidacy, in the immediate future.

Note on Professional Growth and Learning Plans

It is understood that a registrant's professional focus may evolve over time. Once a registrant is placed on the **Practising Register**, they are independently responsible for maintaining and expanding their individual scope of practice in accordance with NSRP Standards. Any significant shift in practice areas should be supported by a self-directed learning plan. Detailed information on the requirements for expanding one's areas of practice can be found in the **Scope of Practice and Learning Plans Policy**:

https://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/Scope_LearningPlans.pdf

Currency of Practice Requirements (Bylaw 21.1)

To ensure professional competence and public safety, all applicants for a licence or renewal must demonstrate a current connection to the practice of psychology. In accordance with the **Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)** and the **Psychology Regulations**, an applicant must provide satisfactory proof to the NSRP that they meet

one or more of the following currency requirements:

- **21.1.1:** Holds a current licence in an equivalent category of licence in another Canadian jurisdiction;
- **21.1.2:** Has graduated from an approved education program for psychologists no later than three years prior to applying to the Regulator for a licence or renewal of licence;
- **21.1.3:** Has engaged in practice for a minimum of **1500 hours** within the previous three years prior to applying to the Regulator for a licence or renewal of licence;
- **21.1.4:** Has successfully completed a re-entry program or competence assessment and/or bridging education as approved by the Board within the previous one year prior to applying to the Regulator for a licence or renewal of licence.

Language Proficiency

The Psychology Regulations require one to speak and write English with reasonable fluency. This requirement is informally considered throughout the NSRP's review of the Application. As well, if one's first language is not English, one may be required to complete a language proficiency exam.

Evidence of good character

[This requirement](#) is assessed throughout the Application, and specifically via background checks (criminal and child abuse), a background questionnaire, references, and information about any registration history in other jurisdictions.

Demonstrate an understanding of professional practice and ethical issues, and have an understanding of local practices and conditions

This requirement is initially assessed throughout the completed application, particularly under the Core Competency section for Ethics and Standards.

Prior to registration with the Nova Scotia Regulator of Psychology, applicants are required to attest that they have reviewed the relevant local jurisprudence, standards (which includes the Sexual Abuse & Sexual Misconduct Standard), and resources. For information purposes, a document on the Attestation Process is accessible directly below.

http://www.ns-rp.ca/downloads/Information_Attestation.pdf

Professional Liability Insurance

In accordance with the Regulated Health Professions Act and the Psychology Regulations, all registrants of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Psychology (NSRP)—including those on the Conditional Register and the Practising Register—are required to maintain professional liability insurance.

- **Minimum Coverage:** Registrants must maintain professional liability insurance in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence.

- **Scope of Coverage:** The insurance must cover all psychological services provided within the registrant's individual scope of practice.
- **Proof of Coverage:** Proof of adequate insurance must be provided to the NSRP within 30 days of an applicant being placed on a register.
- **Employer Coverage:** While some psychologists are covered by employer-held policies (e.g., through a Health Authority or School Board), the NSRP requires all registrants to ensure their coverage is sufficient for their specific practice. In many cases, a personal liability policy is required to ensure full protection for the public and the practitioner across all professional actions.
- **Ongoing Requirement:** Maintaining current insurance is a requirement for the annual renewal of your licence. Registrants are also required to maintain "tail" or "gap" coverage if they cease practice or move out of the province to cover any prior professional actions.

Legal Entitlement to Practice in Canada

Under the Psychology Regulations, the NSRP is authorized to grant registration and issue a licence only to individuals who are legally entitled to practice in Canada. To meet this requirement, an applicant must be:

- **A Canadian Citizen;**
- **A Permanent Resident** (entitled to live and work in Canada); or
- **A Holder of a Valid Work Permit** that specifically authorizes the practice of psychology in Canada.

Note: While applicants from other Canadian jurisdictions may begin the transfer process under the CFTA, the final issuance of a Nova Scotia licence is contingent upon meeting one of the legal entitlements listed above.