



Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

Suite 455, 5991 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 1Y6
www.nsbep.org

Telephone: (902) 423-2238
Fax: (902) 423-0058

Registration Requirements and Criteria for Assessing Applicants Psychologists Registered in Canada

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
- 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),

Additionally, if an applicant holds a certificate of registration as a psychologist in another jurisdiction, the standards of which the Board determines to be equivalent to the requirements of Subsections 15 (1) or (2) of the Act, the Board may waive any or all [requirements in Subsection 15\(1\) or \(2\) of the Act](#).

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 Board 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 Board 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 Board may decline to approve the area of practice or population that is not supported by the application. The Board 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 for which they are unfamiliar with because they might like to pursue such work in future. The intention of the Declaration of Psychological Practice, which is part of the Online Application for Registration, is meant to realistically consider what one would be carrying out in the immediate future.

It is understood that one's employment may change over time. Following placement on the Register, it is possible to expand one's populations or activities within one's overall area of practice, provided this is carried out in a manner consistent with professional standards.

Language Proficiency

The Psychologists Act requires one to speak and write either English or French with reasonable fluency. As such, one must be reasonably fluent in the English or French Language, depending on the language spoken by the intended population to be served. This requirement is informally considered throughout the Board's review of the Application. As well, if one's first language is not English or French, he/she may be required to make arrangements to complete a language proficiency exam, depending on the language of the population that will be served.

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 reviewing 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

Prior to registration with the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology, applicants are required to attest that they have reviewed the relevant local jurisprudence, standards, and resources. For information purposes, a document on the Attestation Process is accessible directly below.

http://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Information_Attestation.pdf