



FACT SHEET

English Language Proficiency

The Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (ARNNL) is the regulatory body for all registered nurses (RNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) in the province. The primary mandate of ARNNL is public protection. ARNNL achieves this by ensuring that all RNs and NPs meet the requirements for registration and annual licensure, and by promoting standards for safe, competent and ethical nursing practice.

As required under *Registered Nurses Regulations (2013)*, a person applying to become registered to practice nursing in Newfoundland and Labrador must demonstrate **proficiency in the English language** sufficient to enable the applicant to practice as a registered nurse in the province.

Who is required to demonstrate English language proficiency?

An applicant for registration whose:

First language **is English** may be able to demonstrate English language proficiency through one of the following ways:

- If the primary language where you live and work is English and evidence of language of instruction in theory and clinical in English in the nursing education programme(s) completed. Online or distance education programme(s) are not accepted as evidence of fluency. Verification is required directly from the applicant's school of nursing.
- Evidence of safe practice within the last two years as a Registered Nurse, where services were provided in English and where the primary language of the practice setting and clients was English. Verification is required directly from the employer(s).

First language **is not English** is required to demonstrate English language proficiency through:

- Achieving the required scores on one of the English language proficiency tests approved by Council.
- Registration and licensure as a RN or LPN/RPN in another Canadian Jurisdiction and employed as a RN or LPN/RPN in Canada, during the previous 2 years, where the primary language of the practice setting and clients are English.

What test(s) and test scores are accepted by ARNNL?

IELTS (International English Language Testing System – **Academic version**) www.ielts.ca

Overall Score - 7.0

7.0 - speaking

7.5 - listening

6.5 - reading

7.0 - writing

Minimum scores required

CELBAN (Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses) www.celban.org

8 - speaking

10 - listening

8 - reading

7 - writing

Minimum scores required

How long are test of English scores valid?

Test scores are valid for two years from the date of testing. ARNNL recommends to applicants that their test scores be current, within six months, at the time of initial application.

What if my test of English scores expires during the application process?

Applicants whose test scores expire during the application process may be required to repeat a Test of English prior to being approved to write the Registered Nurse Registration Exam (NCLEX-RN) or being issued an interim license or registration with ARNNL.

Can I send a photocopy of my test of English scores?

No. An official copy of the results must be submitted with the application. **Applicants should request that the testing company send an original report of test scores directly to ARNNL.** This is required before the application for registration can be processed.

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