

## Notification – Internationally Educated Nurse Applicants

The government is making it easier for IENs to work in the BC health-care system with new financial supports and a faster, more efficient assessment pathway. <sup>1</sup>

As of January 31, 2023, a new provincial initiative will be in place to support internationally educated nurses (IENs). [Nursing Community Assessment Service \(NCAS\)](#) is now the first stop for IENs who want to practise nursing in B.C., and will review English language proficiency, education credentials and assess nursing competence at one time.

IENs may also be eligible to receive financial support through Health Match BC ([NursingJobsBC.ca](#)) with fees waived directly by the BC government to remove financial barriers for those who want to work in BC.

Through the new NCAS pathway, qualified IENs may be referred for either a [Triple Track assessment](#) (simultaneous assessment for RN/LPN/HCA) or a single-track HCA assessment, depending on their background. **After** completing a credential assessment and meeting language proficiency requirements with NCAS for referral to a competency assessment, IENs potentially interested in healthcare workforce entry as an HCA will [submit an application](#) to Registry. The Registry application should be submitted after working with NCAS. There is no fee to apply to the Registry.

Once the Registry has reviewed the online application and confirmed the IEN is an applicant of the new provincial pathway, the Registry will work with NCAS to secure any final application items. Once the NCAS HCA Competency Assessment Report is received, the Registry will contact candidates regarding next steps (i.e., remedial education or direct registration) within 15 business days.

### IMPORTANT NOTE

The Registry will continue to refer other (non-IEN) qualified [Internationally Educated Health Care Professional](#) category applicants to the NCAS Health Care Assistant (HCA) Competency Assessment (single-track assessment only). For example, those who have been educated outside Canada in program that is equivalent to a [BC Health Care Assistant Education Program](#). Funding support for the single-track HCA competency assessment is available and further information can be found here: <https://www.choose2care.ca/bursaries-and-stipends>.

---

<sup>1</sup> BC Government News: [Nurses receive support to join B.C.'s health system more quickly](#)

Related News: [BCCNM Announcement: New strategies streamline path to registration for internationally educated nurses in B.C. \(bccnm.ca\)](#)