



NHPC Application Process for Internationally-Trained Massage Therapists

This application process is for individuals who trained in massage therapy outside of Canada. The application process will verify your massage therapy accreditation documents, review your international credentials, and determine if your training is substantially equivalent to massage therapy training from recognized programs in Canada.

To be considered for the Competency Equivalency Exam (CEE), applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have graduated with a diploma or certificate in massage therapy from a program that meets the following criteria:

- established as post-secondary program
- offered by a separate school, faculty, division, or department recognized by the appropriate government agency in the jurisdiction
- include a supervised clinical component with direct client care
- include learning outcomes, competencies, and evaluation criteria set out in a clear, concise, and detailed manner

If the NHPC determines that your prior learning and experience is sufficient, you will be eligible for the Competency Equivalency Exam (CEE), which consists of a written and practical exam. If you are successful with the CEE, you will be eligible for Regular membership with the NHPC.

Applicants must be able to speak and write English with reasonable fluency to be successful on the exams and to gain membership with the NHPC.

The application consists of the following steps:

1. **Self-assessment:** Read *Practice Competencies and Performance Indicators for Massage Therapists at Entry-to-Practice, 2016*. These competency standards form the basis of massage therapy education in Canada. NHPC's Competency Equivalency Exam (CEE) measures your professional skills and knowledge against these competency standards. Use this document to self-assess your ability to demonstrate all of the competencies. If you are confident in your prior learning, continue with the application.
2. **Complete the attached application forms and submit them directly to the NHPC:**
 - CEE Application Form (the CEE fee will be applied only if you are deemed eligible to take the exams).
 - Regular Membership Application Form (the Regular membership fee will be applied only if you are successful with the CEE).



3. **Credential agency assessment report:** Request a report from one of the following independent educational credential evaluation services. The report must be submitted directly to the NHPC from the agency. You will need to indicate that you wish to have the report sent to the NHPC on the application form.
- [World Education Services \(WES\)](#)
 - [International Credential Assessment Service of Canada \(ICAS\)](#)
 - [Comparative Education Service \(CES\)](#)
 - [International Qualifications Assessment Service](#)
 - [International Credential Evaluation Service](#)

The reports from the agency must confirm the following information:

- jurisdiction of education
 - name of educational institution
 - length of program
 - specific credential attained (diploma, certificate or degree) and the year granted
 - massage therapy program was a post-secondary program
 - the program was delivered by an education program, faculty, division, or department recognized by the appropriate government agency in the jurisdiction
 - the equivalency of the program in terms of Canadian education
4. **Submit the following information related to your massage therapy education and clinical work experience directly to the NHPC:**
- a copy of your massage therapy credential (certificate, diploma or degree)
 - a program outline that includes what courses were offered in your program and their length
 - course outlines for each course completed in your program. Course outlines must include learning objectives, topics covered, and reference materials used during the time that you attended the program.
 - a résumé or curriculum vitae showing dates, addresses and phone numbers of your clinical practice and details about your clinical experience.
 - a list of all continuing education programs and courses you may have taken since completing your initial massage therapy program, along with supporting documentation verifying attendance.
 - two letters of reference, authored by credible sources such as a past or present employer, health care professional, client, or instructor. The letters should address your time in practice and the type and location of your practice. Each letter must be submitted **directly to the NHPC office** (not from the applicant).

Note: If the above documents are not in English, the applicant must have them translated to English by a certified translator, and they must be submitted to the NHPC directly from the translator. All translated documents must include a certified seal. The applicant is responsible for any translation costs.



Your application will not be processed until all of the required documents from the applicant and third parties have been received.

5. **Results of the Assessment:** Processing a complete application can take four to six weeks from receipt of the application and all supporting documentation. The application will be reviewed against the entry-to-practice standards for massage therapists. The results of the review will be provided to you by email. There are two routes for Regular Membership with the NHPC:

1. If your education and experience in massage therapy are deemed sufficient, you will be eligible to challenge the Competency Equivalency Exam (CEE). Upon being approved for the CEE, you will be notified and the CEE fee will be processed. At that point, you will be registered for Test Run Online (TRO) in order to prepare for the exams. The NHPC will contact you with detailed information about the examination registration process and date availability.

Applicants have up to one year to complete both the written and practical examinations. With successful completion of the CEE, you will be eligible for Regular Membership.

2. If your education and experience are not deemed sufficient for the CEE, you will be advised to contact recognized massage therapy diploma programs directly to inquire about their advanced standing options. Completion a diploma program will qualify you for Regular Membership. You would not be required to take the CEE in this case.

The CEE does not meet the standards of eligibility for any regulatory college of massage therapists in Canada. Currently, massage therapy is a regulated health profession in Ontario, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island. Applicants are encouraged to contact the regulatory colleges directly to inquire about their entry-to-practice requirements.

In provinces where massage therapy is not a regulated health profession, the CEE helps ensure that third-party insurance providers will recognize internationally-trained massage therapists as eligible service providers.