NORTH AMERICA · CANADA · INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE ROUTE

CA How to register as a pharmacist in Canada

Pharmacists are licensed by the regulator of each province or territory. Outside Quebec, international graduates first enrol with NAPRA's Pharmacists' Gateway Canada, then pass the national PEBC exams, then meet the province's own requirements. Licence or registration: **Pharmacist licence (provincial register)**. Regulator: **Provincial pharmacy regulatory authority, with PEBC national exams**. Every fact was checked against official sources on **20 November 2026**.

CHANGES FROM JAN 2027 PEBC held its last Evaluating Examination in October 2026. From January 2027, international graduates go from Document Evaluation straight to Qualifying Exam Part I (MCQ), and must pass Part I before applying for Part II (OSCE). Some provincial pages still mention the old Evaluating Exam.

Who decides what	
NAPRA (Pharmacists' Gateway Canada)	Enrols you, issues your national ID and shares your file with the provincial regulator. Not used in Quebec.
Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada	Runs Document Evaluation and the Qualifying Exam Parts I and II, and certifies candidates.
Provincial regulatory authority	Sets language, jurisprudence and practice requirements and issues the licence, for example the Ontario College of Pharmacists.
IRCC	Decides visas, work permits and permanent residence. Separate from registration.
Employer	Decides hiring. A licence is not a job offer.

Who can apply

- A pharmacy degree from outside Canada and the US that PEBC accepts at Document Evaluation, benchmarked against a Canadian 4-year entry-level degree.
- A licensing statement sent by each licensing body where you are or were licensed, or a statutory declaration if never licensed.
- A valid Document Evaluation (5 years) when you apply for Part I. If it expires first, you need a Document Re-evaluation.
- Lifetime limit of 4 attempts at each Part in one pathway, and 8 attempts per Part overall.
- Each province sets its own extra rules. Ontario requires the IPG bridging programme unless both PEBC parts are passed on the first attempt.
- Quebec has a separate route through the Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec (Quebec order of pharmacists), in French.

The steps, with approximate time and cost

1. **Enrol in Pharmacists' Gateway Canada**
   Mandatory first step everywhere except Quebec. It gives you the NAPRA ID number needed for PEBC and holds your file for the provincial regulator.
   Time: 1–2 months (est.) · Cost: $390 + tax
2. **Pass PEBC Document Evaluation**
   Transcript sent by your university, licensing statement sent by your licensing body, certified ID. Up to 8 weeks once complete; valid 5 years.
   Time: up to 8 weeks · Cost: $715
3. **Pass Qualifying Exam Part I (MCQ)**
   Computer-based, 200 questions. Sit it at a Prometric centre or by remote proctoring. Applications close about 3 months before each sitting.
   Time: 3–6 months (est.) · Cost: $870 (2027)
4. **Pass Qualifying Exam Part II (OSCE)**
   Only after passing Part I. Practical stations with simulated patients and health professionals, held in person in Canadian cities.
   Time: 3–6 months (est.) · Cost: $1,950 (2027)
5. **Meet provincial requirements**
   Language test, jurisprudence exam, internship or practice assessment. Ontario also requires the IPG bridging programme unless you pass both PEBC parts first time.
   Time: 5–21 months (ON) · Cost: varies by province
6. **Register as a pharmacist**
   The provincial regulator issues your licence after a final application, police check, insurance and current language evidence.
   Time: after approval · Cost: ON $430 + annual

Typical total: About 2–3 years (est.)

Language requirements

- NAPRA recommends IELTS Academic: Reading 7.0, Listening 7.0, Speaking 7.0, Writing 6.5, all in one sitting.
- OET: Reading B, Listening B, Speaking B, Writing C+. TEF Canada (French): Reading B2, Listening C1, Speaking C1, Writing B2.
- Each subtest must meet the minimum; the overall score is not used. Scores are usually valid for 2 years.
- Provinces adopt or adapt this policy. Ontario applies its own list of accepted tests from 1 January 2026, so check your regulator.

Read this before you plan

- Licence ≠ visa ≠ job. Passing PEBC or registering with a province gives no right to enter, live or work in Canada. IRCC decides all immigration applications.
- No practice before registration. In Ontario, you may not practise even under supervision until enrolled in the IPG programme or registered as an intern.
- A visitor visa to sit the OSCE does not allow work. Employers decide hiring, and nothing on this route is guaranteed.

Exams, costs and documents

Checked 20 November 2026

Exam pattern and mode: online, test centre or onsite

PEBC Qualifying Exam Part I (MCQ)

TEST CENTRE

- 200 MCQs: 150 scored, 50 unscored pretest
- 260 minutes total testing time, one day
- Tests applied knowledge and judgement
- Up to 4 attempts; remediation before the 4th
- Must pass before applying for Part II

Prometric centres in Canada and abroad, or remote proctoring from home in any country. Remote seats are limited. Confirm a Pakistan seat when booking.

PEBC Qualifying Exam Part II (OSCE)

ONSITE

- 11 scored stations plus rest stations
- 9 interactive, 2 non-interactive
- 7 minutes per station, 2 minutes to read
- About 6.5 hours at the exam centre
- Up to 4 attempts; remediation before the 4th

In person at exam sites in Canadian cities such as Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary. Not online. Overseas candidates may need a visitor visa.

Official fees	Amount
Pharmacists' Gateway Canada enrolment NAPRA, effective January 2026, plus applicable taxes	**$390 + tax**
PEBC Document Evaluation 2026/2027 schedule; up to 50% refund only before evaluation is completed	**$715**
PEBC Qualifying Exam Part I (MCQ) Listed as 2027 fee. Rescheduling or cancellation $60 + HST, paid to Prometric	**$870**
PEBC Qualifying Exam Part II (OSCE) Listed as 2027 fee. No refund for an exam taken	**$1,950**
Ontario College of Pharmacists College fees for the IPG route, plus the annual fee	**$430 + annual**
Ontario third-party costs OCP's total for other bodies on the IPG route, plus annual liability insurance	**$19,411 + insurance**

All amounts in Canadian dollars. ON = Ontario. Language tests, translations, travel to Canada and living costs are extra.

Documents usually required

- Certified copy of passport ID pages
- Witnessed paper application form, couriered to PEBC
- Passport-style photo uploaded to the PEBC portal
- Transcript sent directly by your university
- Degree certificate if the transcript does not show conferral
- Licensing statement sent by each licensing body
- Certified translations of non-English or non-French documents
- Police check, liability insurance and language results for the province

Expected time

- PEBC acknowledges a Document Evaluation application within 6 weeks and completes it within 8 weeks of a complete file.
- Part I applications close about 3 months ahead: the February 2027 deadline was 19 November 2026; May 2027 closes 18 February 2027.
- Ontario says the steps after the IPG programme take at least 5 months and up to 21 months; some applicants need 2 to 3 years.

Typical total: About 2–3 years (est.)

Ontario: the IPG route in brief

- After PEBC clearance, choose Ontario in your Gateway file, then complete the IPG Program at the University of Toronto.
- Register with OCP as an intern (certificate valid 1 year), then pass the Jurisprudence, Ethics and Professionalism Exam and PACE.
- Final application needs a current police check, language evidence, liability insurance and an Ontario practice assessment site.
- Education must be current: within 2 years of finishing the IPG Program or the PEBC Qualifying Exam when you apply.

Visas, pay and next steps

Checked 20 November 2026

Immigration route (separate from registration)	What official sources say	Status
Express Entry: healthcare category	Pharmacists (NOC 31120) are listed in the healthcare and social services category, checked 20 November 2026. You also need 12 months of full-time work experience in that occupation within the last 3 years and must meet the round's rules.	Changes yearly
Express Entry: general draws	Federal skilled worker and other Express Entry programs rank candidates by points. Invitations are not guaranteed and do not depend on pharmacist registration.	Open
Provincial Nominee Programs	Provinces run their own nomination streams with their own criteria and caps. Check the official site of the province where you plan to register.	Confirm
Visitor visa to sit the OSCE	PEBC advises overseas candidates who need a visa to travel for the exam to apply before the application deadline. A visitor visa does not allow work.	Open

If you are applying from Pakistan

- IRCC lists visa application centres in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi, run by VFS Global under contract. Biometrics are by appointment only.
- VFS Global Pakistan says that from 7 March 2026 you must upload your Biometric Instruction Letter when booking biometrics.
- Visa decisions are made by IRCC officers, not by the application centre.
- PEBC needs your transcript sent directly by your university and your licensing statement sent directly by your licensing body.
- Part I can be sat by remote proctoring from Pakistan. PEBC lists international Prometric centres, but availability must be confirmed when booking.

Pay and funding

- Job Bank (Government of Canada), pharmacists NOC 31120, 2024-2025: Canada low $44.00, median $58.00, high $70.00 per hour.
- Ontario, same source: low $40.00, median $56.00, high $69.00 per hour. Actual pay depends on employer, sector and region.

Avoid these common mistakes

- Planning around the Evaluating Exam. It ended in October 2026; from 2027 Part I comes first.
- Missing the Part I application deadline, which closes about 3 months before each sitting.
- Assuming the OSCE can be taken online or outside Canada. It is in person in Canada only.
- Letting the Document Evaluation, licensing statement or language scores expire mid-process.
- Assuming PEBC certification or Express Entry eligibility brings a licence, visa or job.

How ASGHCA supports you

- PEBC exam preparation
- International Career Mapping: consult, assess, roadmap, prepare
- Documentation and registration guidance
- English test preparation: IELTS, PTE and OET
- 1-on-1 mentorship, CV and interview support
- Webinars, CPD sessions and a lifetime community

ASGHCA offers education and guidance. Regulated immigration advice is referred to authorised professionals.

Official sources, all checked 20 November 2026: pebc.ca: new pathway for IPGs, Examination Dates and Fees, Document Evaluation, Qualifying Exam general information and Part II pages, FAQ, Remote Proctoring · pharmacistsgatewaycanada.ca: Enrol as a Candidate, FAQ · napra.ca: Language Proficiency Requirement Policy (Feb 2024) · ocpinfo.com: International Pharmacy Graduate pathway · canada.ca (IRCC): Express Entry category-based selection, visa application centres, biometrics · vfsglobal.ca/canada/pakistan · jobbank.gc.ca: Pharmacist in Canada wages.

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