

Immigration Information for Canadian Nurses

Canadian nurses wishing to gain employment at our facility must meet the requirements of the Ohio Board of Nursing (OBON), the US immigration service, and Cleveland Clinic. It is very important that you obtain an Ohio RN Nursing License prior to beginning employment with Cleveland Clinic. To receive your authorization to test, please contact the OBON at 1-614-466-3947, or visit their website at www.nursing.ohio.gov/contact.htm. Another site that might be helpful is the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, www.ncsbn.org.

Once you have met the requirements for US immigration and the OBON, you will need to complete an application online and attach a copy of your resume. Our application for employment can be found on our website at www.clevelandclinic.org/nursingjobs. Or select job opportunities from the employment link to the left of the page. Select the category, RN/LPN Inpatient Hospital, click submit and you will get a full listing of current openings within the Division of Nursing. You can select your desired nursing specialty and submit your application for employment consideration. Once we have received this, an interview can be scheduled.

RN's from Canada can enter the US under the NAFTA treaty in TN status. This is done at the border and is valid for one year increments, with limitless extensions. All Canadian nurses entering the US to work under the Trade NAFTA must obtain a Visa Screen Certificate. To date, CGFNS is the only entity to provide such services for nurses.

Visa Screen requirements applicable to foreign nurses:

- If licensed by examination in a U.S. state or territory then general nursing school transcripts and valid and unencumbered foreign and U.S. licenses must be submitted by the foreign institution to CGFNS. (Quebec must also provide passing scores in oral and written English exams (such as ETS or IELTS))
- If licensed by endorsement in a U.S. state or territory without passage of the NCLEX examination, then the temporary foreign nurse must, in addition to the above requirements, pass either the NCLEX or the CGFNS qualifying exam. Canadian nurses can apply for the CGFNS qualifying exam online at www.cgfns.org
- Once CGFNS receives the necessary documents, it takes approximately 3 months to receive the visa screen.

Below is a checklist.

For additional questions please contact:

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CHECKLIST FOR CANADIAN NURSES

- _____ Resume
Lists all education and employment experiences, including start and end dates, complete address information, telephone numbers, and job descriptions
- _____ Nursing diploma
- _____ Nursing transcripts
Uncertified transcripts with certified English translations (if applicable)
- _____ NCLEX / CGFNS Certificate
- _____ Valid RN Licenses
- _____ VisaScreen Certificate
- _____ Proof of valid passport (Biographic page) or proof of Canadian citizenship
- _____ Copy of Birth certificate
Includes parents' names
- _____ Employment Letter
- _____ English exam results (if applicable)
Except for graduates of nursing schools in Quebec, Canadian nurses are exempt from the English language proficiency examination requirement, if nursing instruction and text books were in English.
- _____ Copy of marriage certificate (if applicable)
- _____ Copy of divorce certificate/decreed (if applicable)
- _____ Copies of passport (biographic page) or proof of Canadian citizenship and birth certificate for spouse (if applicable)
- _____ Copies of passport (biographic page) or proof of Canadian citizenship and birth certificate for children (if applicable)

All documents must be presented in English or with a certified English translation.

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