

Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Application Guide for Physicians

Nova Scotia Nominee Program

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Thank you for choosing Nova Scotia

Read this guide carefully to find out how you can apply to the Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP) through the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians. If you are accepted through this stream, you, your spouse, and your dependents may apply to the federal government for a permanent resident visa.

This stream is for doctors in the IRCC Express Entry system whose skills match specific National Occupational Classification (NOC) categories. The categories listed below reflect the positions that are currently in high demand at the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) and the IWK Health Centre (IWK). This stream is only open to doctors who have received a Letter of Interest from us (NSOI) inviting them to apply to immigrate to Nova Scotia.

This stream is currently open to doctors in 3 NOC categories:

- NOC 31100: Specialists in clinical and laboratory medicine
- NOC 31101: Specialists in surgery
- NOC 31102: General practitioners and family physicians

Important! You must have these things BEFORE you can apply to immigrate through the NSNP Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians:

- a valid Express Entry profile number
- an approved job offer from the NSHA or IWK in one of the above NOC categories
- a Letter of Interest from us (NSOI) inviting you to apply to this stream

Note: If you are a doctor with an approved job offer but do NOT have an Express Entry profile number, you can apply to the NSNP through the Physician Stream. Find out more about the Physician Stream on our [website](#).

Is the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians right for you?

This stream is only for doctors who meet the specific needs of the NSHA and IWK. Applicants must also have a Letter of Interest from us (NSOI) AND be registered in IRCC's Express Entry online system. Read the following 2 columns carefully to see if this stream is right for you.

The Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians may be right for you	The Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians is NOT right for you
The Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians may be right for you IF you meet ALL of the criteria listed below	Do NOT apply to the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians if even ONE of the statements below applies to you
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have a valid <u>Express Entry profile</u> number. • You stated in your Express Entry profile that you are interested in moving to Nova Scotia. • You received a Letter of Interest from us (NSOI). • You have received an approved job offer from the NSHA or IWK in one of these <u>National Occupational Classifications (NOC)</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NOC 31100: Specialists in clinical and laboratory medicine - NOC 31101: Specialists in surgery - NOC 31102: General practitioners and family physicians • You promise to live and work in Nova Scotia for at least 2 years. • You meet the work experience requirements for the <u>Express Entry stream</u> for which you have qualified. • You have a valid <u>Education Credential Assessment from the Medical Council of Canada</u> OR proof that you received the necessary medical training in Canada. • You have proof of your <u>ability to communicate in English or French</u> to the level required for this stream. • You have proof of your <u>immigration status</u> in the country where you are currently living. • You can show that <u>you will be able to support yourself and your family</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are currently living in a country in which you are NOT legally allowed to live. • You have applied to immigrate to Canada on compassionate or humanitarian grounds or to claim refugee status. • You have applied for refugee status in Canada and been refused. • You have received a removal order from IRCC or the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). • You have unresolved custody or child support issues affecting one or more of your dependents. • You are currently studying at a Canadian post-secondary institution. • You received a scholarship or award that requires you to return to your home country upon graduation and you have not yet done so.

What you need to know BEFORE you apply

You must apply to 2 levels of government: federal and provincial

Level 1: Canada (federal)

First, create an Express Entry profile in [IRCC's online Express Entry system](#). After you create your profile, you will get an Express Entry profile number. You need this number to apply to the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians. You will continue to use the Express Entry online system during the application process.

In your Express Entry profile, you must state that you are interested in moving to Nova Scotia.

After you have been nominated to the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians, you will have to apply for permanent resident status with the federal Government of Canada.

Costs

You must pay all the required Government of Canada immigration fees when you submit your file to IRCC. For current fees, see the [fee list on the IRCC website](#).

Level 2: Nova Scotia (provincial)

We may send you a Letter of Interest through the Express Entry online system if you have an approved job offer from the NSHA or IWK.

Once you receive the Letter of Interest, you have **30 calendar days** to apply to the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians through our [online service](#). If you are successful, we will send you a nomination certificate.

Important! We will refuse your application if you submit it later than 30 calendar days after you received your Letter of Interest.

Costs

There is no application fee for the NSNP, but there may be costs related to your application. For example,

- translation costs if your required documents are in neither English nor French
- fees charged by a representative should you choose to hire one
- fees for English or French language testing

You are responsible for your application

It is up to you to provide ALL of the documents we require including those that you get from your employers, your spouse or common-law partner, and your dependents. You must also ensure that all documents are valid when you submit your application for this stream AND when you submit your file to IRCC. If you are missing documents or any document is invalid, we will refuse your application.

Important! You must tell us if your status changes at any time before you receive a permanent resident visa. For example:

- You no longer have an approved job offer from the NSHA or IWK.
- Your marital status has changed, for example you got married or divorced.
- You need to add a dependent child.

You may use a representative

There are 2 kinds of representatives: paid and unpaid. Both can help you to complete and submit your application. When you appoint a representative, you do 2 things:

- You authorize us to share information about your application with them.
- You authorize them to act on your behalf.

Unpaid representatives

As the name suggests, unpaid representatives do NOT charge for their services. Your representative could be a family member, a friend, or someone else.

Paid representatives

Paid representatives charge a fee for their services. If you are using a paid immigration representative, they must be authorized. Authorized representatives must be one of the following:

- An immigration consultant who is a member in good standing with the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants (CICC). Visit the [CICC website](#).
- A lawyer or paralegal who is a member in good standing of a Canadian law society, barristers' society, or barreau, or a law student under the supervision of a recognized lawyer. Visit the [Federation of Law Societies of Canada](#) website for links to law societies across Canada.
- A notary public who is a member in good standing of the Chambre des notaires du Québec or a law student under their supervision. Visit the [Chambre website](#).

You don't need to use a representative to prepare and submit an application. If you choose to use a representative—paid or unpaid—they must complete an [NSNP 50 – Use of a Representative form](#). You must submit this form with your application.

Warning! We strongly recommend that if you choose to hire a representative, you choose one from the categories listed above. We do NOT deal with unauthorized representatives. Also, if your representative is NOT authorized, you may not have the ability to hold them accountable if they make an error or give you bad advice.

Misrepresentations disqualify you for 5 years

What is misrepresentation? Misrepresentation happens when you or someone else involved in your application does one of these things:

- is not truthful about one or more of the eligibility criteria
- leaves out information we need to assess your application

The people involved in your application include yourself, your employer, your spouse, and your dependents, or [an immigration representative](#) if you decide to use one.

Important! If you are refused for misrepresentation, you will NOT be allowed to apply to any immigration stream for 5 years.

There are no guarantees

Submitting an application and meeting the eligibility requirements for the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians do NOT guarantee that your application will be processed and assessed.

Even if you are successful and receive a nomination certificate, we cannot guarantee that you will receive a work permit or permanent resident visa. IRCC has its own application process. They are the only ones who can issue these documents. NSOI does not issue work permits or permanent resident visas.

Responsibilities of NSOI

- assess nominee applications
- issue letters of support for work permits (if applicable)
- issue nomination certificates



Responsibilities of IRCC

- assess work permits (if applicable)
- assess permanent resident applications
- issue permits and visas

Important! NSOI-issued letters of support or nomination certificates do NOT guarantee approval by IRCC.

Criteria may change; streams may close

We may stop accepting applications for a period of time. We call this “closing” or “suspending” the stream. If we close or suspend the Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians before we review your application, we may not consider it even if you submitted it before we closed the stream.

There may be a delay between the time we receive your application and when we can process it. During that time, criteria may change. We will assess your application based on the criteria in place at that time. Check [our immigration website](#) regularly to stay up-to-date with all changes.

Decisions are final; there are no appeals

If we decide to refuse your application for the Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians, our decision is final. There is no appeal process.

We may withdraw your nomination

We may withdraw your nomination at any time before you receive a permanent resident visa and before you arrive in Canada for any of these reasons:

- You no longer meet the eligibility requirements of the Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians.
- The Government of Canada has advised us that some information in your application for permanent residency is false.
- IRCC finds that you, your spouse, or a dependent is not allowed to immigrate to Canada.

You may withdraw your application

You may withdraw your application without penalty at any time before you receive a nomination certificate. There is one exception. You may NOT withdraw your application without penalty if we know or suspect that you have NOT been truthful or have left out important information in your application.

If you accept an Invitation to Apply (ITA) from IRCC while your application is being processed by the NSNP, you must withdraw your application to the NSNP.

Gather the documents you need

You will need a number of documents to complete your application. You will have to complete some of these documents yourself. Some will have to be completed by your employers. You will also have to get documents from third parties such as educational institutions and governments. Begin to gather these documents as soon as you know that you will apply for the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians. It may take some time to gather all the documents you need.

Important!

- All documents must be valid on the dates of your applications to both NSOI and IRCC.
- All documents must be PDF files.
- Documents with images must be scanned in colour.
- Text-only documents may be scanned in black and white.
- The total size of all documents must be no more than 50 megabytes (MB).
- Each file name must be no more than 50 characters.
- All documents must be clear enough to read.
- Scanner resolution must be 300 dots per inch (dpi).

Documents in languages other than English or French

Documents in languages other than English or French must be translated by a certified translator.

- Submit a copy of the original document AND a copy of the certified translation.
- Submit proof from the translator of their certification.

Warning! These people are NOT allowed to translate your documents:

- members of your family
- anyone who works for the paid representative you have hired to help you with your application

If your documents are NOT translated by a certified translator, we may NOT accept your application.

Documents related to your application to the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians

- a copy of the Letter of Interest we sent you
- proof of your approved job offer from the NSHA or IWK
- a copy of your Return of Service Agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness

Approved job offer from the NSHA or IWK

You must have an approved job offer from the NSHA or IWK in one of these National Occupational Classifications (NOC):

- NOC 31100: Specialists in clinical and laboratory medicine
- NOC 31101: Specialists in surgery
- NOC 31102: General practitioners and family physicians

This job offer must be written on official NSHA or IWK letterhead and must meet these criteria:

- It is signed and dated by a person authorized to hire doctors at the NSHA or IWK.
- You have signed and dated the job offer to show that you have accepted it.
- It shows that you meet all the criteria required to obtain a licence to practise medicine in Nova Scotia from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia.
- It shows that you meet all the criteria required to apply for privileges and credentials with the NSHA or the IWK.

Return of Service Agreement

You must have signed a Return of Service Agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness that shows that you plan to live and work in Nova Scotia for **at least 2 years**.

Documents related to your work experience

- documents showing that you meet the minimum work experience requirements for one of these Express Entry streams:
 - Canadian Experience Class
 - Federal Skilled Worker Program
 - Federal Skilled Trades Program
- letters of reference from previous employers. Each letter of reference must be a single document **written on your employer's letterhead** and **stamped with the company's seal** if it has one. They must include ALL of the following:
 - the signature of the responsible human resources officer, supervisor, or manager
 - the employer's full address, telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses
 - the specific period of time that you worked for the employer
 - the titles of the jobs you held while you worked for the employer
 - the amount of time you worked in each job
 - your main duties in each job
 - your annual salary plus benefits for each job
 - the number of hours you worked per week in each job
 - the number of hours you worked in total in each job
 - proof that your work experience meets the lead statement definition in the National Occupational Classification (NOC) for either NOC 31100, NOC 31101 or NOC 31102 and that you did at least 51% of the main duties listed there

Important! We will refuse your application if you fail to show that your work experience meets the description in the National Occupational Classification for either NOC 31100, NOC 31101 or NOC 31102.

Documents related to your education and training

If you were educated or trained in Canada

- copies of certificates, diplomas, degrees or transcripts that prove that you meet all the criteria required to obtain a licence to practise medicine in Nova Scotia from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia

If you were educated or trained outside Canada

Provide the documents listed above AND

- a copy of your Educational credential assessment (ECA) report from the Medical Council of Canada

What is an ECA?

An ECA proves that your certificate, diploma, degree, or other proof of education is real and as valid as if it were earned in Canada.

When you submit your ECA, be sure that it meets these criteria:

- It was issued by the Medical Council of Canada.
- It meets the IRCC format and content requirements.
- It was issued within 5 years of the date that we receive your application AND of the date that you apply for permanent residence.
- It shows that your certificate, diploma, degree, or other proof of education is as valid as if it were earned in Canada.

Important! You must include your proof of education AND your ECA report (if you need one) in your application for the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians. Do NOT request that your ECA report be sent directly to us. Keep a copy of it for your records and future use.

Documents related to your ability to communicate in English or French

You must meet one of the following:

- the criteria listed under Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) Level 7 or higher
- the criteria listed under Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens (NCLC) Level 7 or higher

To show that you meet the above criteria, you must submit the results of one of these language tests even if your first language is English or French:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) General Training
- Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program (CELPIP) General
- Pearson Test of English (PTE) Core
- Test d'évaluation de français (TEF) Canada
- Test de connaissance du français (TCF) Canada

This table shows the scores you need in each language test to meet the CLB/NCLC 7 standard.

Test	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
IELTS	6	6	6	6
CELPIP	7	7	7	7
PTE	60	60	69	68
TEF	249	207	310	310
TCF	458	453	10	10

Warning! You must have had your language skills tested **within 2 years of applying to the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream** for Physicians. We do NOT accept test results dated more than 2 years before the date on your application. You may have to take these tests again if the results are more than 2 years old before IRCC processes your application for permanent residence.

Documents about you and your family

Passports

You, and everyone immigrating with you, must have a valid passport. The expiry date of all passports should be at least 2 years from the date of your application. Do NOT include the original passports in your application.

Instead, include copies of pages that show these things:

- the passport number
- the date of issue and expiry
- the photo of the passport holder
- the name of the passport holder as well as their date and place of birth
- any changes to the passport holder's name, date of birth, or other identifying information
- any changes to the passport's expiry date
- any visas or visits to Canada

Documents related to your spouse and children if they are immigrating with you

Include the documents that apply to you:

- a copy of your marriage certificate
- a copy of a Statutory Declaration of Common-Law Union
- copies of birth certificates for dependent children
- copies of custody documents for children younger than 19
- proof of permission allowing children under 19 to come with you to Canada
- copies of adoption papers

Statutory Declaration of Common-Law Union

You need this document if you are immigrating with a common-law partner. Your partner may be of the same or opposite sex. You must have lived together like spouses for at least one continuous year. If you were prevented from living together, you must provide proof of what prevented you from living together.

Documents related to your immigration status

Include the documents that apply to you:

- **If you currently live in Canada**, include a copy of proof of your legal status in Canada. Ensure that your proof is valid when you submit your application.
- **If you currently live in a country of which you are NOT a citizen**, include a copy of proof of your legal status in that country.
- **If you have applied to immigrate to Canada before**, include copies of every letter you have received from the Canadian government or any provincial or territorial government regarding each application.
- **If you have lived in Canada before**, include any temporary residence permits you have access to.

Documents related to your move to Nova Scotia

You may provide one or both of the following:

- banking statements from the past 3 months showing all account balances and transaction history
- statements from your investment portfolio showing fixed deposits and the terms for withdrawing funds before the investment matures

These may include transferable funds in your name or your spouse's name.

Important! Do NOT include real estate or personal items such as jewelry, furniture, and vehicles.

Why do I need to include banking and investment information?

We need to know that you have enough money to pay for these things:

- your immigration costs
- your travel expenses
- the costs related to settling in Nova Scotia such as having enough money for food, rent, clothing, etc.

You can find the requirements regarding the settlement funds for your family size, and the form in which funds will be accepted on [IRCC's website](#).

These requirements may be reduced if you are already living in Nova Scotia or have arranged employment. In all cases, you must provide proof of your financial resources in your own name. The reduction will be assessed by an officer on a case-by-case basis.

We will NOT approve your application if it appears likely that your family income will be below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Off (LICO). We calculate the LICO requirement based on your family size whether they are coming to Canada with you or not. Your family income includes these things:

- the income you will earn from your job offer
- your spouse's income if they have a permanent job offer in Nova Scotia

To find out if your income will be above or below LICO, compare your family income to the minimum incomes listed in Table 1 of the Federal Income Scale.

We can help

We can connect you with organizations and programs to help you and your family settle in your new community. Find out more on our website.

The application process

1. Create an Express Entry profile

Go to the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Express Entry [website](#) and follow the steps to create an Express Entry profile. After you create your profile, you will get an Express Entry profile number. Send us (NSOI) this number as soon as you receive it. You will need this number to complete your application. You will continue to use the Express Entry online system during the application process.

2. Look for a Letter of Interest in the Express Entry online system

You must have a Letter of Interest from us (NSOI) to apply to the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians. We will only send you a Letter of Interest if you meet these criteria:

- You have a valid Express Entry profile number.
- You have an approved job offer from the NSHA or IWK in [NOC 31100, 31101 or 31102](#).
- You stated in your Express Entry profile that you are interested in moving to Nova Scotia.

3. Apply to the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians

You must apply to this stream **within 30 calendar days** of receiving a Letter of Interest from us. To apply:

- Submit your application through our [online service](#).
- Include all documents listed in the section of this guide titled Gather the documents you need.

4. You will either be nominated or refused

If you are nominated

If we approve your application, we will send you a letter through the Express Entry online system telling you of your nomination. We will also email this information and your nomination certificate to you or your [representative](#). You must accept our nomination **within 30 calendar days** of receiving it. You do this through the Express Entry online system.

The nomination certificate expires 6 months after the date it was issued. You must apply to IRCC for permanent residence within this 6-month period.

Ask for a Letter of Support for your Temporary Work Permit

After you have been nominated by the Province of Nova Scotia, you can request a Letter of Support from our office (NSOI). This letter replaces the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) from Service Canada. You can use this letter to apply for a temporary work permit or to renew your existing work permit with IRCC. A work permit lets you work in Nova Scotia while IRCC processes your application for a permanent resident visa.

Work permits can only be renewed within 3 months of their expiry date. IRCC will only approve a renewal if your passport will continue to be valid for the duration of the renewed permit.

If we decide to refuse your application

We will refuse your application if you do NOT meet the criteria for the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians. We will NOT refuse you right away. Instead, we will email you or your representative a letter explaining our concerns or requesting further information. You have **10 business days** to submit new information for us to consider. **After 10 business days** we will re-assess your application, including the new information. We will then make our final decision and email it to you or your representative.

We may extend this 10-day time limit in rare circumstances if you request it. For example, we may extend it if you were in hospital or had a death in the family.

If we refuse your application

We will notify you or your representative by email. This decision is final. There is no appeal process.

We may extend your nomination

You can ask us to extend your nomination period beyond 6 months. This will give you more time to apply to IRCC for your permanent resident visa. You must provide evidence as to why you need the extension and include any supporting documents we ask for.

We allow you only one such extension. This extension will expire 6 months after the original expiry date. We do NOT grant extensions after one year from the original nomination date. After one year, you will have to re-apply to the program.

5. Apply to IRCC for permanent residence

After you accept our nomination in the [Express Entry online system](#), IRCC will send you an invitation to apply for a permanent resident visa. Find out more about the Express Entry system on [IRCC's Immigrate through Express Entry website](#).

6. Tell us when you become a permanent resident

Contact us within 30 days of your arrival in Nova Scotia. Send us these documents:

- a copy of the Confirmation of Permanent Residence
- a copy of your passport
- your Nova Scotia contact information including
 - your current address
 - your phone number
 - your email address

Document checklist

Check your documents against the list below. Be sure that you have all the documents we have requested in this guide. We may ask you for more information if we need it.

Forms, Criteria, and Supporting Documents	Who must provide the document
NSNP FORMS	
<input type="checkbox"/> eNSNP 100 – Online application at novascotia.ca/ensnp <input type="checkbox"/> NSNP 50 – Use of a Representative (optional. Use only if a representative has helped you to complete and submit your application). See You may use a representative . <input type="checkbox"/> NSNP 60 – Authority to Release Personal Information (optional. Use only if you want us to send your application information to someone other than yourself or your representative). <p>The person you choose will have access to information about your application but they will NOT be able to act on your behalf.</p>	<p>Applicant</p> <p>Any dependents aged 19 and older</p>
Documents Related to the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians	
<input type="checkbox"/> A copy of your approved job offer from the NSHA or IWK <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of your Return of Service Agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the valid Letter of Interest from us (NSOI) <p>See Documents related to your application to the Nova Scotia Labour Market Priorities Stream for Physicians</p>	<p>Applicant</p>

Forms, Criteria, and Supporting Documents	Who must provide the document
Work Experience	
<input type="checkbox"/> Letters of reference from employers. See Documents related to your work experience.	Applicant
Education and Training	
<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of all certificates, diplomas, and degrees <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of your valid Education Credential Assessment (ECA) from the Medical Council of Canada See Documents related to your education and training.	Applicant
Language	
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of English or French language ability See Documents related to your ability to communicate in English or French.	Applicant
Immigration status	
<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of passport pages as described under Passports in this guide <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of proof of legal status for the country where you are currently living, including Canada <input type="checkbox"/> Previous temporary residence permits, if applicable and available <input type="checkbox"/> Letters from previous attempts to immigrate to Canada See Documents related to your immigration status.	Applicant Spouse or common-law partner Dependents

Forms, Criteria, and Supporting Documents	Who must provide the document
Accompanying family members (if applicable)	
<p>Copies of these documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificates for dependent children <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Declaration of Common-Law Union <input type="checkbox"/> Custody documents and permission for the child to come to Canada <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption papers <p>See Documents related to your spouse and children if they are immigrating with you</p>	<p>Applicant</p> <p>Spouse or common-law partner</p>
Settlement Funds	
<p>You may provide one or both of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> official banking statements from a financial institution for the past 3 months <input type="checkbox"/> statements for investment portfolio and fixed deposits and the terms and conditions for withdrawing these funds prior to maturity <p>See Documents related to your move to Nova Scotia.</p>	<p>Applicant</p> <p>Spouse or common-law partner</p>

Questions?

Call (902) 424-5230 or toll free in Nova Scotia 1-877-292-9597

Email immigration@novascotia.ca

Write to **Labour, Skills and Immigration**
Immigration and Population Growth
PO Box 697
Halifax, NS B3J 2T8
CANADA

Visit online novascotiaimmigration.ca

Visit in person **Labour, Skills and Immigration**
Immigration and Population Growth
1505 Barrington Street, 4th Floor (Maritime Centre)
Halifax, NS B3J 3K5
CANADA

Find Nova Scotia Immigration on the following social media websites:

