

Medical Laboratory Technologist (MLT)

Medical Laboratory Technologists in New Brunswick

In New Brunswick, medical laboratory technology is a regulated profession. To work in this field, you are required to complete the foreign qualification recognition process and provide all necessary documentation.

There is a need for MLTs in both big cities and smaller communities across New Brunswick; you can also find jobs in one of the two official languages of the province: English or French.

Most MLTs work in hospitals, but jobs are also available in private laboratories, community health clinics, Public Health facilities, university research laboratories, biotechnology companies and specialty laboratories.

To obtain a licence to practise in New Brunswick, an MLT must be deemed competent by the foreign qualification recognition process in all five disciplines of general medical laboratory technology: clinical chemistry, hematology, clinical microbiology, transfusion science and histotechnology. Both clinical genetics and cytology are specialized fields, and MLTs who are specialized in one of these two fields can obtain a restricted licence to practise in their area of expertise.

MLTs play a central role in the care of patients by providing physicians with the information they need to make accurate diagnoses. The work of MLTs remains a mystery to the average person because much of their work is done behind the scenes in the laboratory.

Foreign qualification recognition is the process of verifying that the knowledge, skills, work experience and education obtained in another country are comparable to the standards established for Canadian professionals and tradespersons.

Laboratory science involves critical thinking, problem-solving, analyzing specimens and employing sophisticated equipment and computer interfaces to ensure the timely and accurate delivery of test results. It involves interpretation of results and the relationship between results and various medical conditions.

The New Brunswick Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists (NBSMLT) was founded in 1948 when the New Brunswick branch of the Canadian Society of Laboratory Technologists (CSLT) was formed, and it is governed by the New Brunswick statute, An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists. New Brunswick was the second province to regulate the practice of medical laboratory technology.

How do I get my credentials recognized?

You can start your application abroad; however, you have to write the certification exam in Canada. The New Brunswick Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists (NBSMLT) (www.nbsmlt.nb.ca) is the regulatory agency in the province. The foreign credential recognition process is centralized, and it is done by the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) (www.csmls.org). Please visit the CSML website and click on Internationally Educated MLTs for more information about specific requirements, costs and other resources.

CSMLS completes a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) for internationally educated MLT applicants. The PLA is typically completed in four to six weeks.

There are three steps to becoming a medical laboratory technologist:

- Be declared eligible to write the CSMLS national certification examination. To be eligible you must either:
- Successfully complete a MLT educational program accredited by the Canadian Medical Association; or
- successfully complete the CSMLS PLA.

1. Following confirmation of eligibility to challenge the CSMLS national certification exam, you are eligible for a temporary licence if you have found work in New Brunswick. This temporary licence allows you to acquire clinical experience prior to challenging the CSMLS certification examination. Letters of confirmation from your employer confirming employment, as well as the CSMLS confirming eligibility to challenge the examination, are required.
2. Write the CSMLS national certification examination.
 - You must apply to write the examination and pay the appropriate fees.
 - The examination is offered three times a year at locations across Canada.
 - You do not have to live in Canada to take the examination, but you must come to Canada to write it.
3. After you have passed the examination, you will need to contact the NBSMLT to register and receive your practising licence.

Finding a job in New Brunswick

You should take time to research job requirements and develop a plan for finding work. You can ask for help. There are many resources available that you can use before coming to New Brunswick and after you are here. You can find job postings on the NBSMLT website. There are also immigrant-serving agencies funded by the Government of New Brunswick and the Government of Canada and offer their services free of charge.

There are many resources available to help you find employment in New Brunswick, including immigrant-serving agencies and job banks. Visit www.gnb.ca/immigration.

Additional resources

Horizon Health Network
www.horizonnb.ca

Vitalité Health Network
www.santevitalitehealth.ca

New Brunswick Immigration Portal
www.gnb.ca/immigration

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
www.cic.gc.ca

Service Canada
www.servicecanada.gc.ca

Foreign Credentials Referral Office
www.credentials.gc.ca

Service New Brunswick www.snb.ca

NB Jobs www.nbjobs.ca

Working in New Brunswick Tool
www.workingincanada.gc.ca/newbrunswick-nouveaubrunswick

Government of Canada Job Bank
www.jobbank.gc.ca

Before you arrive

While you are waiting to come to New Brunswick, there are many important things you can do to improve your chances of success.

The Foreign Credentials Referral Office (www.credentials.gc.ca) is an organization of the Government of Canada that provides helpful resources. The Government of New Brunswick also has specially designed tools to help you make Canada your home. Please visit www.gnb.ca/immigration.

If your education was not completed in either English or French, you are required to fulfil a language proficiency test that assesses listening, reading, writing and speaking. The language proficiency requirement is done in two stages:

1. Technical review – The language requirement you must meet before your PLA file is reviewed.
2. Equivalent and eligible to write exam – The language requirement you must meet before becoming eligible to write the exam. This requires a higher score than the technical review.

If you need to improve your language skills, start before you come to Canada.