

FACT SHEET

English Language Proficiency

As required under the Social Workers Regulations (2018) Section 2. (1) (i), a person applying to become a registered social worker in Newfoundland and Labrador must provide *proof of proficiency in the English language that the registrar considers sufficient to enable the applicant to practice as a social worker in the province*. English must be either your first language or the language you use primarily for reading, writing, listening and speaking.

An applicant for registration whose first language **is not** English may be able to demonstrate English language proficiency through the following ways:

- Completion of a bachelor's or master's degree accredited by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education, the Council on Social Work Education or international equivalent, where the language of instruction is English and field placements are completed in practice settings where English is the primary language. Please note that online or distance education programs are not automatically accepted as evidence of fluency in the English language and the applicant may be required to demonstrate such. Verification may be required directly from the applicant's school of social work.
- Evidence of practice within the last two years as a registered social worker in good standing, where services were provided in English and where the primary language of the practice setting and clients was English. Verification is required directly from the employer and/or regulatory body.
- Achieving the required scores on the English Language proficiency test approved by the NLCSW.

What test and test scores are accepted by the NLCSW?

Applicants are required to organize their own testing through IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and are responsible for all costs associated with taking the test. Test results must be sent directly to the NLCSW from IELTS. The NLCSW requires an overall Score of no less than 7 in each component: reading, listening, writing and speaking **IELTS (International English Language Testing System) – Academic Version**. Details are available at <https://ieltscanadatest.com/>.

Test scores from IELTS are valid for a period of two years from the date the test is completed.