

Certified Global Nurse (CGN)

The first credential for nurses built on a global framework



About the credential and exam

Who was the credential created for?

The Certified Global Nurse (CGN) credential was created for and is available to any international nurse who wants to benchmark their skills against a global competency framework and meets the eligibility requirements to apply to the program and sit for the [Nurse Qualifying Exam \(NQE\)](#).

What is unique about this credential and its exam?

The credential is the first-ever certification for **first-level, general (RN) nurses** offered by any organization. It represents the collective efforts of **70+ nursing leaders** and subject matter experts from **50 countries**, representing all World Health Organization regions and World Bank country income levels. The nurse competency **frameworks of 37 countries** were analyzed and synthesized to produce a core set of nursing practice standards, a common global framework, and the Nurse Qualifying Exam.

Why is the credential necessary?

Having a credential built on the foundation of a common competency framework will enable nurses to benchmark their core nursing skills via an exam blueprint whose objectives are not specific to a single country or health system. For countries that do not have a licensure pathway, the credential can support those nurses with skills verification and career mobility. And the credential and exam can be the first step toward helping those countries benchmark their nurses and build regulatory programs.

Who is eligible to earn the CGN credential?

CGN certification is for first level, general nurses* who wish to have their applied knowledge and competencies in their field recognized as meeting a global standard. To be eligible to apply, they must meet the following education and license/registration requirements, as verified by TruMerit:

- **Education:** Candidates must have completed a first-level, general nursing education.*
- **Licenses/Registration:** Candidates hold a current license as a first-level, general nurse or registered nurse (RN) in the country where you practice. (The license requirement is waived if you live and work in a country where authorization to practice is based on a diploma.)

* In most countries, including the United States, a first-level nurse is called a registered nurse or a professional nurse. If you are a second-level nurse in your native country, you cannot sit for the NQE exam. In most countries, second-level nurses are called enrolled nurses, vocational nurses, practical nurses, or nursing assistants.

What does this mean for the former CGFNS Qualifying Exam?

The new Nurse Qualifying Exam is the updated version of our former CGFNS Qualifying Exam. It has been expanded and re-architected to represent the core set of nursing competencies analyzed and mapped from the 37 countries who contributed frameworks to this effort. This includes the nurse competency framework and practice objectives of the United States—preserving the exam’s ability to continue to assess job readiness for nurses migrating to the U.S. For that reason, the Nurse Qualifying Exam will be the examination administered by TruMerit for all of these programs:

- **Certified Global Nurse (CGN) Program** – The NQE will be the required exam, along with other eligibility requirements, for earning the CGN credential.
- **VisaScreen** – The NQE will continue to be an option for foreign-educated nurses (FENs) who seek a visa for employment in the U.S. but do not have access to the NCLEX exam.
- **Certification Program (CP)** – The NQE will continue to be a requirement for foreign-educated nurses (FENs) who choose the CP program for credentials evaluation as a path to U.S. state licensure.

Note: The Nurse Qualifying Exam will also be the required examination for global nurses seeking a certificate through our ISPN program, but that program is currently undergoing revision.

How can a nurse earn the credential?

Nurses can apply to the program via the [Certified Global Nurse](#) page, download the Candidate Handbook, and register a profile in our Connect portal. Once all eligibility paperwork has been submitted and verified, the candidate can then register for the exam. The NQE is delivered at global Kryterion testing centers during four annual one-week testing windows. The first NQE test window is **November 10–14, 2025** (application deadline is **September 30, 2025**). The exam costs **\$395**.

Which countries contributed to the process for developing the CGN?

The world regions and countries who contributed to this effort are outlined below.

- **African Region**
 - **Botswana.** Task force, field review, and item development
 - **Ethiopia.** Task force, field review, and item development
 - **Ghana.** Task force, field review, and item development
 - **South Africa.** Framework
 - **Tanzania.** Task force
- **Region of the Americas**
 - **Brazil.** Task force, field review, and item development
 - **Chile.** Framework
 - **Mexico.** Item development
 - **Peru.** Framework
 - **United States.** Task force, field review, framework, and item development
- **Eastern Mediterranean Region**
 - **UAE.** Task force and Framework
 - **Bahrain.** Framework
 - **Jordan.** Framework
 - **Pakistan.** Task force, field review, and item development
 - **Saudi Arabia.** Field review and Framework

Which countries contributed to the process for developing the CGN? (cont.)

- **European Region**
 - Belgium. Framework
 - Bulgaria. Framework
 - Croatia. Framework
 - Cyprus. Framework
 - Denmark. Framework
 - Estonia. Framework
 - France. Framework
 - Germany. Framework
 - Ireland. Framework
 - Italy. Task force, field review, and item development
 - Moldova. Framework
 - Netherlands. Framework
 - Portugal. Task force and item development
 - Spain. Framework
 - Türkiye. Framework
 - United Kingdom. Task force, field review, framework, and item development
- **South-East Asia Region**
 - Bhutan. Task force, field review, framework, and item development
 - India. Task force and item development
 - Indonesia. Task force, field review, framework, and item development
 - Myanmar. Framework
 - Thailand. Framework
- **Western Pacific Region**
 - Australia. Task force, field review, and item development
 - Brunel Darussalam. Framework
 - Cambodia. Task force and Framework
 - China. Task force and item development
 - Hong Kong. Task force and Framework
 - Japan. Task force and Framework
 - Laos. Task force
 - Malaysia. Framework
 - Mongolia. Framework
 - New Zealand. Task force, field review, framework, and item development
 - Singapore. Framework
 - Taiwan. Task force and field review
 - Tonga. Framework
 - Vietnam. Task force and Framework

What if my country did not participate? How can my country be represented?

The best way to contribute to this standards-setting effort now is to take the **November 2025** initial examination. Nurses who sit for the November exam will contribute to the performance, psychometric analysis, and cut-score determination for this exam, thus enabling their country to be represented in the process.

Find out more here: [Certified Global Nurse](#)