

## Frequently Asked Question About International NCLEX® Administration

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### 1. What Is International NCLEX Administration?

International NCLEX administration is the delivery of NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN examinations in Pearson Professional Testing Centers located outside U.S. state and territorial boards of nursing (also known as NCSBN Member Board jurisdictions), for purposes of licensure within Member Board jurisdictions. All current state licensure requirement processes still apply.

### 2. Where Are The International Testing Centers That Can Administer NCLEX?

The countries that currently administer the NCLEX Examinations are Hong Kong, England and South Korea. Beginning February 15, 2006, appointments will be accepted for NCLEX testing on, or after April 1, 2006 at Pearson Professional Centers in Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Mexico, and Taiwan.

At a later date in 2006, it is expected that Japan will become authorized as well. It is important to note that other locations may be added later.

### 3. How Were These Countries Assessed And Identified?

The NCSBN Board of Directors approved a recommended list of security criteria from the NCSBN Examination Committee (criterion detailed below). These international locations were selected because they rated highly across all criteria under consideration:

- National Security  
The Examination Committee only considered locations that have favorable reports regarding security and economic climate from the U.S Department of State ([www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)).
- Examination Security  
Because of the high security and administration standards required for the NCLEX examination, only locations where Pearson VUE can build, staff and replicate current Pearson Professional Centers (the same as in current member board jurisdictions) were considered.
- Similarity with U.S. Intellectual Property and Copyright Laws  
The Examination Committee selected countries for initial consideration that are generally regarded by the U.S. government and industry as areas that minimize risk for new business ventures.
- Pearson Locations with High Stakes Testing  
The Examination Committee considered the experiences of other high stakes testing programs and test service in international markets.

**4. Will The NCLEX Examination Administered Internationally Be The Same As The Examinations Administered Domestically?**

Yes. The test specifications and passing standards are the same for all NCLEX examinations. The international test centers are required to meet the same security and test administration requirements as domestic test centers. The administration environment requirements are summarized as follows:

- All locations will be Pearson owned and operated centers
- Pearson centers will be built in accordance with standards in the test services contract
- Pearson centers will always be staffed by at least two certified test center administrators, who are Pearson employees
- The same secured technology and file server security will be utilized as in U.S. based centers
- Candidate identification procedure will be the same
- All centers will have the same video/audio recording technology as U.S. based centers
- All the same digital fingerprint, photograph and signature technology (including back-up technology), as used in U.S. based centers will be employed
- All examination registration, scheduling and examination proctoring procedures, including incident reports and investigations will be the same as in U.S. centers

**5. Can I Deliver NCLEX Examinations For NCSBN?**

No. NCSBN will utilize Pearson VUE as the exclusive provider for NCLEX examinations.

**6. Why Is The NCLEX Administered Internationally?**

The benefits of international administration to NCLEX candidates are:

- Public Protection  
International testing allows qualified and competent nurses to practice sooner than is possible under the current NCLEX administration model due to the reduction in time it takes candidates to travel to testing centers. The international testing initiative may influence the current nursing shortage, however, candidates will still need to be made eligible by a Member Board before an examination can be administered.
- Maintain Fair and Rigorous Entry-Level Nurse Licensure Standards  
International NCLEX administration affords convenience to candidates while demonstrating NCSBN Member Board commitment, individually and collectively, to a clear, unambiguous standard for entry-level nurse competency assessment. This is achieved by utilizing psychometrically sound and legally defensible examinations based on U.S. nursing practice.
- Removal of Barriers for Nurse Licensure  
International NCLEX administration is designed to make the NCLEX examination process for internationally educated candidates more efficient. International test administration seeks to provide convenience to candidates by reducing the time and cost of traveling to the United States without sacrificing standards.

- Facilitation of Self-Determination of Employment  
International NCLEX administration does not change jurisdictional requirements or make it easier to become a nurse in the United States; it only assists to alleviate the economic impact of traveling to the United States each time they must test.
- Establish An International Presence Commensurate With the NCSBN Mission and Vision  
International NCLEX administration is consistent with NCSBN's organizational mission and vision statements and provides a common framework to establish multi-lateral relationships with nurse regulatory bodies outside the United States.

**7. How Do I Register To Take The NCLEX Examination In An International Test Center?**

The electronic version of the *2006 NCLEX Candidate Bulletin* is available from the NCSBN Web site ([www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org)); this bulletin provides detailed information regarding the NCLEX examination fee, registration process and scheduling procedures for international and domestic test centers. The print version of the *2006 NCLEX Candidate Bulletin* is available from boards of nursing.

**ALL** candidates, regardless of where the examination will be administered, must apply for licensure to a U.S. state or territorial board of nursing to receive an Authorization To Test (ATT) before they will be allowed to schedule an examination appointment. Candidates who are not familiar with the state nurse licensure process should contact the specific state board of nursing in the state they wish to be licensed for specific information. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Web site has comprehensive contact information for all state boards of nursing online at:

[http://www.ncsbn.org/regulation/boardsofnursing\\_boards\\_of\\_nursing\\_board.asp](http://www.ncsbn.org/regulation/boardsofnursing_boards_of_nursing_board.asp).

**8. I Have An Authorization To Test (ATT) But Want to Schedule An Examination Appointment At An International Test Center. May I Have An Extension On My ATT To Do So?**

No. Candidates who have previously received an Authorization To Test (ATT) will NOT be granted an extension in order to accommodate scheduling in international test centers. Candidates should consult the *2006 NCLEX Candidate Bulletin* for complete information on this process.

**9. How Much Will It Cost To Take The NCLEX Examination Internationally?**

The fee for taking the NCLEX examination is \$200. If you choose to schedule your NCLEX examination at an international test center, you will have to pay an international scheduling fee of \$150 plus a Value Added Tax (VAT) where applicable. These fees must be paid by credit card and will be charged when you schedule your examination appointment.

You will also have to pay other fees for licensure required by the board of nursing in the jurisdiction in which you are applying. You must check with your board of nursing to find out about these fees.

**10. I Have An Appointment Scheduled At A Domestic Test Center, May I Change To An International Center?**

Yes. You will have to pay the \$150 international scheduling fee and any applicable VAT charges; these fees must be paid by credit card.

**11. May I Get A Refund For Any NCLEX Examination Fees?**

No. There are no refunds of NCLEX examination fees for any reason.

**12. If I Take My Examination At An International Center, May I Utilize The Unofficial Quick Results Service?**

The NCLEX Unofficial Quick Results is available to any candidate as long as their state board of nursing participates in the service. A list of participating state boards is available at [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org).

**13. Who Can I Talk To If I Have More Questions About International NCLEX Administration?**

Please contact NCSBN NCLEX Examinations Department through either of the following options:

Email:  
[nclexinfo@ncsbn.org](mailto:nclexinfo@ncsbn.org)

Phone:  
1.866.293.9600