

A look at

language proficiency

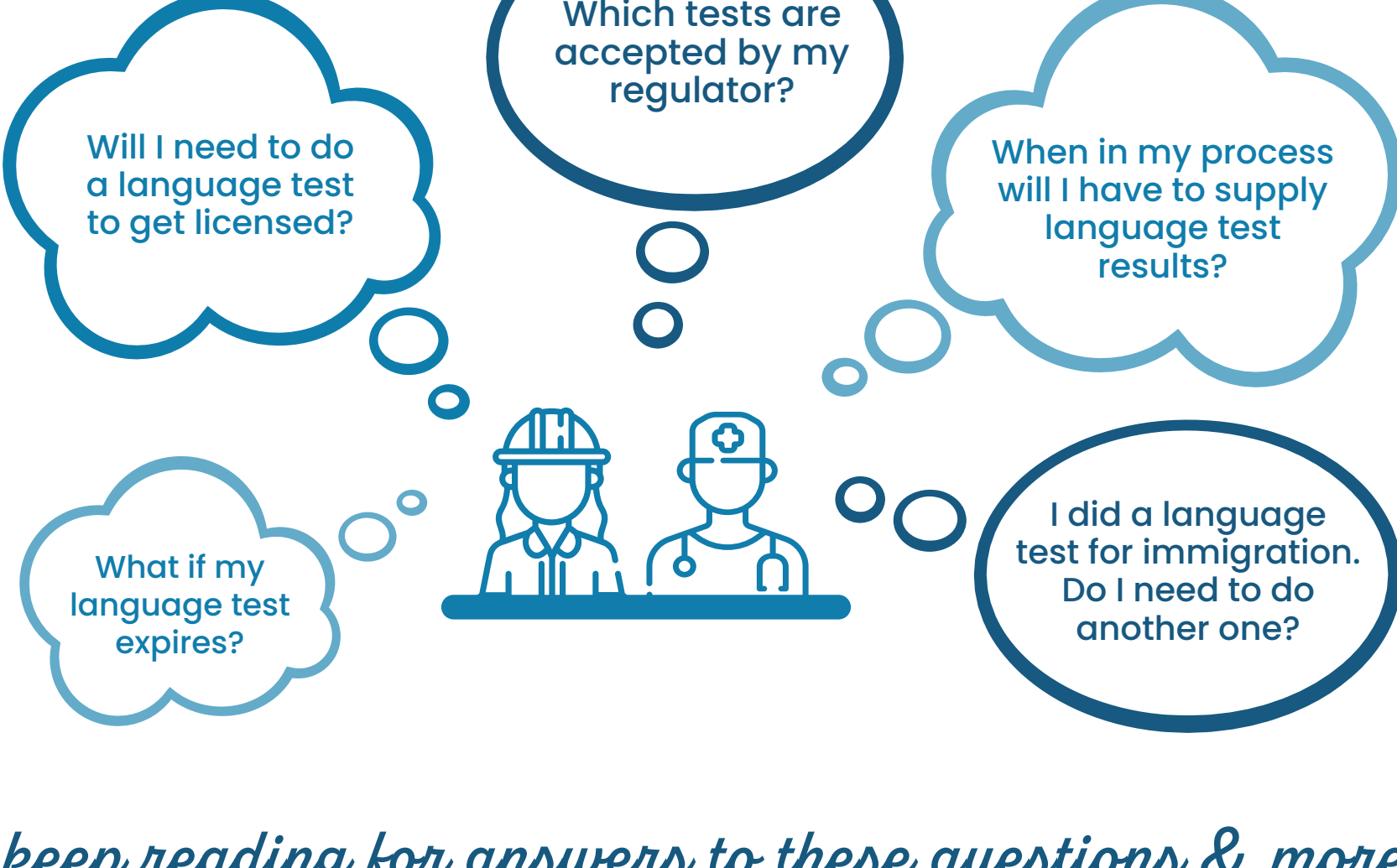
requirements

in the professions



applicants with foreign qualifications

Are you wondering ...



... keep reading for answers to these questions & more!



Strong language and communication skills are key to licensing and practicing successfully in a regulated profession in Manitoba.

Does my

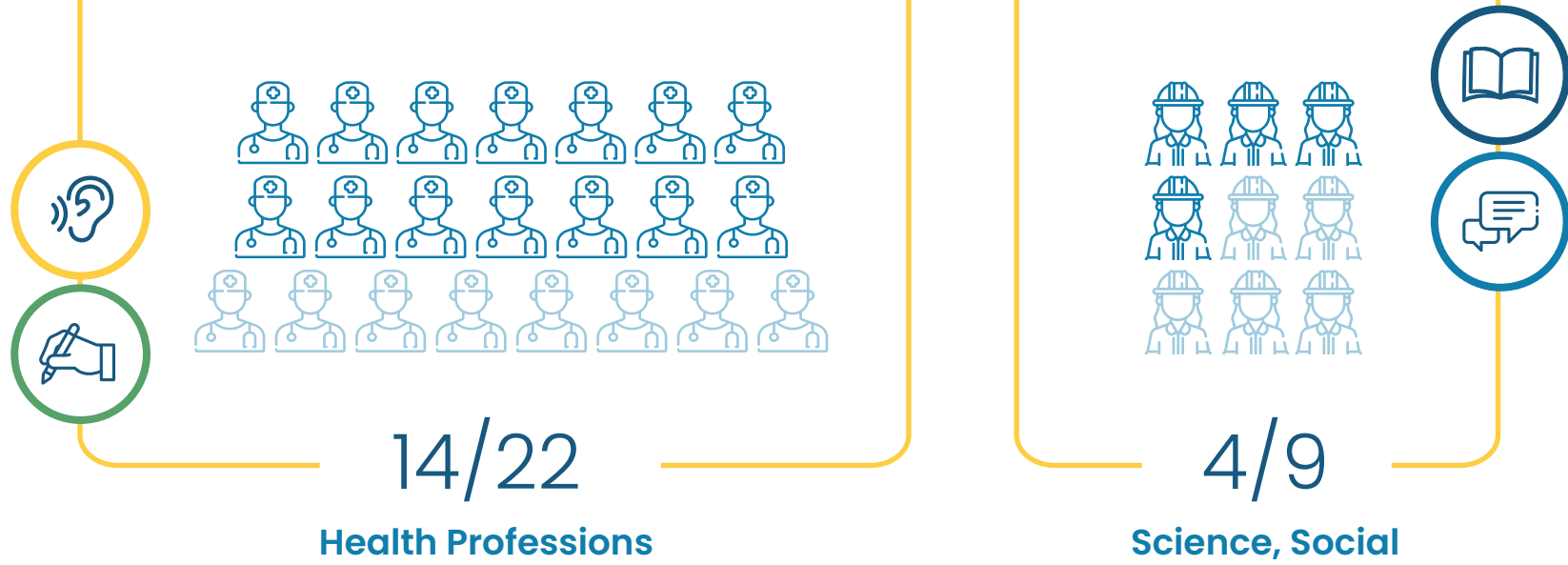
profession require a language test?



Each regulated profession determines whether they will require proof of language proficiency, which tests they will accept and what levels are needed. Requirements are different across professions. The best source of information about language policies and requirements is your regulator's website.

In Manitoba, more than half of the self-regulated professions require applicants with foreign qualifications to submit language proficiency test results as part of their assessment and registration process.

Language tests are required by:



Most of these professions have policies to exempt applicants from language testing if they meet certain criteria. For example, if your first language is English and you studied and worked in an English speaking environment.

Professions that do not have language proficiency requirements often provide suggestions about what levels you will need to be successful.

In some cases, where a regulated profession does not require proof of language proficiency, they may still require a test if they feel your language skills are too low.

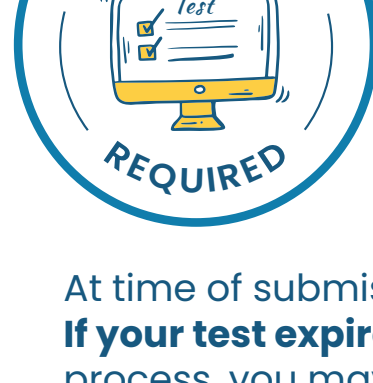
Keep in mind, to pass exams and to complete other requirements, you will need to have strong language skills, even if you are not required to submit language test results.



Before you apply to a regulated profession, make sure your language skills are close to, or at, the required or recommended level for your profession.

When will

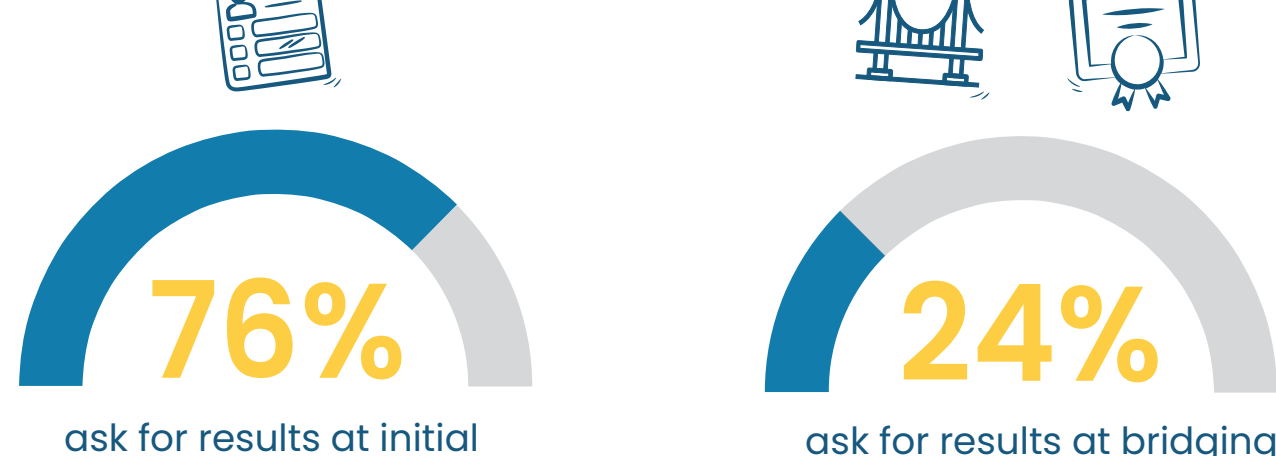
I need to supply language results?



Most regulators require applicants to submit their language proficiency test results when they first apply. Some will allow them to be submitted later in the process. Sometimes you can start the assessment process with language scores that are lower than those required at registration.

At time of submission, most regulators will require test scores to be less than two years old. **If your test expires** (becomes more than two years old) while you are in the assessment process, you may be asked to supply a new test. Ask your regulator what they require before taking a new test.

Of regulators that require a language test ...



Which tests

are most commonly required?



The most commonly requested tests are IELTS (Academic) and TOEFL iBT. Regulators with language proficiency requirements will provide detail on acceptable tests, including which version of a test they accept (e.g. academic or general). Check with your regulator for their specific requirements.

Regulators will ask for scores in the four skill areas of listening, reading, writing and speaking, and sometimes an overall test score. In all cases, required test scores must be achieved on one test. In other words, they cannot be a combination of scores from more than one test sitting or from different language tests.

Common language tests include:

- CAEL - Canadian Academic English Language Test
- CELBAN* - Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses
- CELPIP - Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program
- IELTS - International English Language Testing System
- MELA** - Michener English Language Assessment
- MET - Michigan English Test
- OET* - Occupational English Test - Medicine
- TOEFL - Test of English as a Foreign Language
- TEF - Test d'évaluation de français
- TESTcan - Test pour étudiants et stagiaires au Canada

*These tests are profession-specific. They are designed to test language skills in the context of the practice of a profession. Currently, these tests are accepted by Manitoba regulators in nursing and medicine only.

**This test is specific to the health care sector.

Average requirements across professions:



How much

do tests cost & where can they be written?

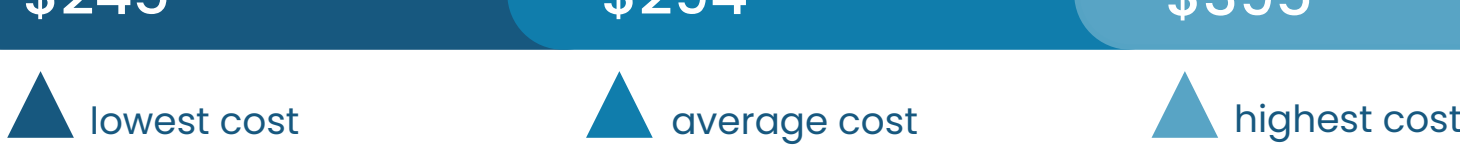


Language proficiency tests typically cost a few hundred dollars. Tests can be taken in Canada and abroad. All tests (except CELBAN) can be taken at a test-specific, language testing centre. There are hundreds of official testing centres around the world that administer language tests. Most tests can also be done online (from home) if you have the required technology.

Regulators often require test results be submitted to them directly from the testing centre that administered your test.

If you plan to take a language test before coming to Canada, remember that most tests expire after two years, so you will need to ensure you time things well.

Language proficiency test costs:



*Costs current as of 2023

Can I meet

language requirements in French?



Currently, eight professions in Manitoba allow applicants to meet language requirements in French. They are: licensed practical nursing, physiotherapy, land surveying, law, pharmacy, audiology and speech-language pathology, respiratory therapy and veterinary medicine.

Manitoba bridging programs are offered in English only. Most professionals in Manitoba must interact with others in English, even if they are employed in a French speaking environment.

So, even if you are able to meet language requirements in French, you may also need strong English language skills to meet other requirements for licensing and to work successfully in Manitoba.



Do I need

another test if I did one for immigration?



You may need to do another English language test even if you did one for immigration. This is because the test required for immigration purposes is usually different from the test required by your regulated profession. In some cases, your regulated profession may require a different version of the same test required for immigration.

For purposes, your regulator may ask for IELTS Academic but IELTS General is used for immigration purposes.

Where can

I go to improve my English skills?



Once you are in Manitoba, the Winnipeg English Language Assessment and Referral Centre - WELARC - may be able to help you find a suitable English language class. Manitoba offers a variety of English language programs, from beginner to advanced.

Visit welarc.net or call 204-943-5387 to speak with someone at WELARC directly about eligibility requirements for their services.