



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

The Lifeguarding Experts

Les experts en surveillance aquatique

RLSS COMMONWEALTH LIFEGUARD RECIPROCITY PILOT OVERVIEW

The RLSS Commonwealth Lifeguard Reciprocity Pilot ends on 31 January 2028

The aim of the *RLSS Commonwealth Lifeguard Reciprocity Pilot* is to assist qualified lifeguards from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and South Africa to be eligible for employment in one of the other three destination countries. This is achieved by removing or minimizing barriers to gaining the necessary qualifications for employment.

PROCESS

To be employed as a lifeguard in most aquatic facilities across Canada, individuals must hold a current Lifesaving Society Canada National Lifeguard Pool award of which Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross and Standard First Aid are prerequisites. To recognize prior learning and streamline the certification process for trained lifeguards participating in the pilot program, candidates will not be required to take the Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross exams.

It is important to note that the *RLSS Commonwealth Lifeguard Reciprocity Pilot* is a training program, not an employment program. Any out-of-country lifeguards seeking employment will need to ensure that they have the appropriate government [work permits](#) and any additional training as required by the potential employer (e.g. Swim Instructor).

Part 1

- Contact the Branch in the province/territory in which you will be residing to request the *RLSS Commonwealth Lifeguard Reciprocity Pilot Application Form*. Send the completed form and a copy of your current lifeguard certification back to the Branch.
- Pay the application fee and purchase any necessary resources to include the "Alert: Lifeguarding in Action" manual.
- Using the purchased materials, prepare for the pre-course assignment.

Part 2

- Complete a Standard First Aid course (or CSA equivalent) from a recognized and approved first aid provider in the Branch of residence prior to attending the in-person training session and National Lifeguard Pool original exam. The National Lifeguard Examiner will require proof of the Standard First Aid certification.

Part 3

- Register for and complete an in-person training session, including a National Lifeguard Pool original examination that evaluates all test items. This examination serves as the final assessment to ensure that candidates possess the necessary skills and competencies to meet the National Lifeguard program standards.

The in-person training session and National Lifeguard Pool original examination may be conducted together or separately by the pilot site.

The National Lifeguard Examiner will complete an original test sheet and submit it to the Branch for processing. The Branch will issue the National Lifeguard Pool permanent card to the Canadian mailing address as indicated on the *RLSS Commonwealth Lifeguard Reciprocity Pilot Application Form*.