



of chemist

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RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDITIONS FOR PRACTISING THE PROFESSION

The practice of professional chemistry means the practice for gain of any branch of chemistry, pure or applied, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, organic, inorganic, physical, metallurgical, biological, clinical, analytical and industrial chemistry. It does not include, however, the execution of chemical or physical tests based on known methods to determine the quality of a product or to control a manufacturing process.

Chemists practice an exclusive profession. They must hold a permit from the *Ordre des chimistes du Québec* and be registered on the Order's roll to:

- practise the profession;
- use the reserved title "Chemist," "Professional Chemist" or any abbreviation thereof.

Furthermore, to practice the specialty of clinical biochemistry or use the title "Clinical Biochemist", all chemists must obtain, in addition to the permit, a specialist's certificate from the Order.

EXCLUSIVE PROFESSION

2,500 MEMBERS

Practical advice

- *If you plan to practise the profession of chemist in Québec, you would be well advised to contact the Order prior to your departure to find out about the rules regulating access to the profession and to assess the steps you will have to take to obtain your permit and apply for membership in the Order. Moreover, certain immigration procedures may require that you contact the Order. Should this be the case, you will be notified by your immigration counsellor.*
- *You may also use the training equivalence self-evaluation tool available on the [Order's website](http://www.ocq.qc.ca) at www.ocq.qc.ca, to determine your eligibility for the Order. This tool will allow you, even prior to your arrival in Québec, to evaluate your training and experience and, if applicable, to more effectively plan the acquisition of any training you may lack. The training equivalence self-evaluation tool is included in the online application form.*
- *A mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) was concluded between the *Ordre des agronomes du Québec* and the *Commission des titres d'ingénieur de France*. It seeks to accelerate and simplify the process of equivalence recognition leading to a permit for individuals competent to practise this profession in France and holding one of the training titles provided for under the MRA. For more information on the conditions for obtaining a permit under this MRA, consult the websites of Immigration-Québec and the Order.*

Produced in collaboration with:



Immigration
et Communautés
culturelles

Québec 

OBTAINING THE PERMIT AND THE SPECIALIST'S CERTIFICATE

CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING THE PERMIT

To obtain the permit, the candidate must hold a Québec diploma, as provided for by regulation, or have a diploma or training recognized as being equivalent by the Order. Candidates holding a diploma issued in Québec or elsewhere must also:

- pass the examinations prescribed by the Order or be deemed exempt from these examinations;
- have a minimum of five years' experience or training in professional chemistry under the direction of a professional chemist, or a minimum of two years in the case of a holder of a Québec diploma as provided for by regulation or deemed equivalent by the Order;
- have knowledge of the French language appropriate to the practice of the profession.

Permanent residency or Canadian citizenship is not required to obtain the permit. Candidates may commence the procedure from abroad. If they meet all the required conditions, the Order will send them a letter of eligibility that is valid for one year and that will be automatically exchanged for the permit on their arrival in Québec.

CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING THE SPECIALIST'S CERTIFICATE

To obtain a specialist's certificate, the candidate must hold a Québec diploma, as provided for by regulation, or have a diploma or training recognized as being equivalent by the Order. Candidates holding a diploma issued in Québec or elsewhere must also:

- hold a chemist's permit issued by the Order;
- satisfy the requirements of the training program;
- pass the examinations prescribed by the Order.

Useful information

In Québec, only clinical biochemistry is recognized as a specialty within the practice of the profession of chemist.

DIPLOMA OR TRAINING EQUIVALENCE

To be recognized as equivalent, a diploma awarded outside Québec must attest that its holder possesses a level of knowledge equivalent to that acquired by the holder of a Québec diploma, as provided for by regulation as a prerequisite for the permit or specialist's certificate.

Consequently, **in order to obtain the permit**, equivalence is recognized if the diploma was awarded upon completion of university studies comprising the equivalent of a minimum of 55 credits in chemistry, with not less than 18 credits related to practical work (laboratory) and 30 credits in theory courses. A credit is equivalent to 45 hours of class time and personal work. The credits must be distributed as follows:

- at least 12 credits in physical chemistry;
- at least 12 credits in organic chemistry;
- at least 9 credits in analytical chemistry;
- either a minimum of 9 credits in inorganic chemistry or a minimum of 9 credits in biochemistry, or a minimum of 12 credits in those two subjects combined.

If the diploma was obtained five years or more before the application for equivalence, the latter will be refused if the acquired knowledge no longer corresponds to the current content of programs of study. However, diploma equivalence will be granted if the training and work experience acquired since bridge that gap.

Candidates whose diplomas cannot be recognized as equivalent can obtain a training equivalence if they can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Order:

- that they have earned a university diploma upon completion of studies in a program in which chemistry was a major subject;
- that their training enabled them to acquire a level of knowledge equivalent to that of the holder of a diploma obtained upon completion of university studies comprising a minimum of 55 credits in chemistry, including at least 18 credits in laboratory work and 30 credits in theory courses. These credits must be distributed as indicated above.

To assess training equivalence, the Order considers

the candidate's total number of years of schooling, the courses taken, the diplomas obtained, the nature and duration of the internships completed as well as the nature and length of the work experience.

Useful information

To be admitted to university in Québec, candidates are generally required to have successfully completed 13 years of elementary, secondary and college education.

In order to obtain a specialist's certificate, equivalence is recognized if the diploma was awarded upon completion of doctoral studies involving:

- not less than 9 credits in biochemistry courses or in a related field recognized by the Order;

- not less than 36 months of university study and research in biochemistry or in a related field recognized by the Order;
- the writing and defence of a doctoral thesis based on research carried out by the candidate.

Candidates whose diplomas cannot be recognized as equivalent may obtain recognition of the equivalence of their training if they are able to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Order, that such training allowed them to acquire a level of knowledge equivalent to that acquired by the holder of a Québec diploma, as provided by regulation, and that their training meets the same requirements as those described for recognition of diploma equivalence.

Procedure for obtaining recognition of diploma or training equivalence

- 1 Complete the online membership [application form](#), which includes the training equivalence self-evaluation tool, on the Order's website and provide all of the following documents:
 - Academic record, with a description of the courses taken, the number of credits obtained or hours completed, and the marks awarded
 - Proof of the diploma obtained
 - Certification of participation in an internship
 - Certification of relevant work experience
 - Cheque or postal money order in the amount of \$421.52 to cover the cost of opening and reviewing the file and the letter of eligibility
These fees are non-refundable.

Only applications duly completed and accompanied by all of the required documents can be processed.

All documents must be certified true copies of the originals. For documents written in a language other than French or

English, the candidate must also supply a French or English translation by an accredited translator or authenticated by official authorities.

- 2 For your training equivalence to be recognized, the Order may ask you to pass one or more examinations and will inform you of the relevant conditions and fees.
- 3 The Order will send you written notice of its decision respecting recognition of your diploma or training equivalence. If the equivalence is refused, the Order will inform you of the programs of study that must be successfully completed or examinations that must be passed to obtain recognition of equivalence.

Useful information

Candidates who are required to complete a program of study must meet the admission requirements of the relevant educational institution and pay tuition fees.

EXAMINATIONS LEADING TO ADMISSION TO THE ORDER

The examinations consist of an assessment of the candidates' knowledge in the following subject areas: physical chemistry, organic chemistry, analytical chemistry or inorganic chemistry/biochemistry. The number and nature of the examinations will depend on the gap between the candidate's knowledge and the knowledge required to practise the profession.

Each examination lasts 6 hours (3 hours of theory, 3 hours of practical work). The examinations are held once or twice a year depending on demand.

Candidates may take the examinations in English or French. They may be exempt if:

- they hold a university degree in pure or applied science recognized by the Order for which chemistry was a principal subject studied or have a diploma or training recognized as equivalent by the Order;
- in the year preceding their application for admission, they were members in good standing of a professional association of chemists outside Québec having standards of qualification for membership equivalent, in the Order's estimation, to those of the Order.

REGISTERING FOR THE EXAMINATIONS

To register for the examinations, you must have sent the Order:

- A written request
- A cheque or postal money order covering the prescribed fee of \$170.89

Useful information

The Order provides candidates with a list of subject areas that may be covered by the examination.

EXPERIENCE AS A CHEMIST

Before being admitted as a member of the Order, candidates must accumulate five years of experience or training in professional chemistry under the direction of a professional chemist, or two years if they hold a Québec diploma, as provided for by regulation, or a diploma recognized as equivalent by the Order. Any person who does not meet this requirement may be admitted as a professional chemist in training.

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SPECIALISTS IN CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

This two-year program aims to integrate and apply the knowledge acquired in clinical biochemistry in a hospital and university environment. The internship must be carried out in an institution that is accredited or recognized by the Order, under the supervision of an internship director recognized by the Order. Candidates with postdoctoral experience in a specialty recognized by the Order may, under certain conditions, be exempt from the internship. Candidates who have acquired post-doctoral training outside of Canada or the United States also have to complete, in Québec, an internship recognized by the Order of at least six months.

REGISTERING IN THE TRAINING PROGRAM

To register in the program you must hold a permit issued by the Order, be registered on the Order's roll, meet the admission criteria for the speciality and obtain an internship card. To obtain this card, you must apply for it, provide the name of the internship director who has agreed to supervise you and pay a fee of \$273.48 to process your file and issue your card.

Useful information

The Université de Montréal is the only educational institution to offer complete training leading to a specialist's certificate in clinical biochemistry. This training is a post-doctoral program.

EXAMINATIONS LEADING TO A SPECIALIST'S CERTIFICATE IN CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

The written, oral and practical examinations are intended to determine whether candidates are competent to practise the speciality. Candidates may sit the examination in French or in English.

REGISTERING FOR THE EXAMINATIONS

To attend an examination session, you must have obtained recognition of the equivalence of your diploma or training for the specialist's certificate, have successfully completed the internship program and forwarded to the Order, one month prior to the date of the written examinations, your application, along with the following documents:

- Two copies of a recent photograph (8 cm x 8 cm)
- Official proof that you have been awarded a doctorate in biochemistry and a summary of your thesis
- A cheque or postal money order for the prescribed fee of \$398.74 covering the cost of issuing the letter of eligibility and that of the examinations

APPROPRIATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

In accordance with the Charter of the French Language, professional orders can only deliver regular permits to individuals who have a knowledge of the French language appropriate to the practice of their profession. Therefore, candidates need to meet this requirement and those above mentioned to obtain a permit.

Useful information

Individuals having completed at least three years of full-time secondary or post-secondary education in French are recognized as having sufficient knowledge of the French language.

Candidates whose files do not indicate that they have appropriate knowledge of French must pass the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF) French examination.

Those candidates may, however, obtain a temporary permit for no more than one year if they meet the requirements for practising the profession. This permit will be issued **by the Order**, together with a registration form for the OQLF French exam.

The temporary permit may be renewed up to three times with the authorization of the OQLF. For each renewal, candidates must sit examinations held in compliance with OQLF regulations. Once the temporary permit has expired, the candidate must pass the OQLF examination to obtain a regular permit. This examination is free of charge and is held in Montréal.

Issuance of the permit or specialist's certificate

If you have met all the terms and conditions for obtaining a permit or specialist's certificate in clinical biochemistry, the Order will issue your permit to practise and, if applicable, your specialist's certificate.

REVIEW MECHANISMS AND EXAMINATION REWRITES

Candidates may request a hearing with the Order to review its decision if recognition of a diploma or training equivalence was refused. The final decision may not be appealed.

Candidates who fail an examination **required to gain admission to the Order** may request a review and may sit a supplemental examination. Fees of \$170.89 apply to each examination the candidate resits.

Candidates who fail a session of examinations required to obtain a specialist's certificate in clinical biology may sit the following session. Fees of \$85.44 will apply. If they fail the written examination, they may request a review of their mark. Candidates who fail the second session must complete an additional training period before sitting a new session.

REGISTRATION ON THE ROLL OF THE ORDER

To practise the profession and use the reserved title, the permit holder must be registered on the Order's roll.

To register, you must:

- submit a written application using the prescribed form and sign the declaration respecting disciplinary and criminal decisions handed down in and outside Québec;
- pay the annual dues;
- take out professional liability insurance.

Annual dues in 2011 are \$382 plus \$24.45 as contribution to the financing of the *Office des professions*

du Québec. Annual professional liability insurance fees are \$20.85.

References

- *Professional Chemists Act (LRQ, c. C-15).*
- *Regulation respecting the standards for equivalence of diplomas for the issue of a permit by the Ordre des chimistes du Québec (C.c-15, R.5.1.01).*
- *Regulation respecting training equivalence standards for the issuing of permits of the Ordre des chimistes du Québec (c. C-15, r.5.2).*
- *Ordre des chimistes du Québec (Specialist's Certificates) Regulation (c. C-15, r.8.1).*
- *Regulation respecting the standards for equivalence of diplomas for the issuing of a specialist's certificate in clinical biochemistry by the Ordre des chimistes du Québec (c. C-15, r.5.1).*
- *Regulation respecting the standards for equivalence of training for the issuing of a specialist's certificate in clinical biochemistry by the Ordre des chimistes du Québec (c. C-15, r.5.1.1).*



POUR PLUS D'INFORMATION

Information on the conditions for practising the profession in Québec

• Ordre des chimistes du Québec

Place du Parc
300, rue Léo-Pariseau, bureau 2199
Montréal (Québec) H2X 4B3

In Montréal:
514 844-3644

Elsewhere in Québec:
Telephone charges accepted

Fax: 514 844-9601

Internet: www.ocq.qc.ca

E-mail: information@ocq.qc.ca

Information on certification and examinations for evaluating knowledge of the French language

• Office québécois de la langue française

www.oqlf.gouv.qc.ca

Information on Québec's professional system and the Professional Code

• Office des professions du Québec

www.opq.gouv.qc.ca

• Conseil interprofessionnel du Québec

www.professions-quebec.org

Information and assistance with regard procedures pertaining to a professional order

• Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles

www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

In the Montréal's region:

Contact the team responsible for information on regulated professions and trades at 514 864-9191.

Elsewhere in Québec abroad:

Contact the [Service Immigration-Québec](#)

Access to laws and regulations

• Les Publications du Québec

www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca

Information on the job market in Québec

• Emploi-Québec

emploi.quebec.net

• Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation

www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca

You can also obtain the brochure *The practice of a profession governed by a professional order*

On Internet:

www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

In Québec:

dans un [Service Immigration-Québec](#)

Abroad:

au [Bureau d'immigration du Québec](#)

couvrant votre territoire

Notice

The information in this document was current in december 2010. It was obtained from various sources and in no way replaces current legislation and regulations.

The fees mentioned herein are subject to change. They are in Canadian dollars and include all applicable taxes.

The Ordre des chimistes has validated the French version of the document. The English version is in accordance with the French version, but has not been validated by the Order.

