License valid on a temporary basis

Obtaining a license valid on a temporay basis

According to chapter 35 of the Charter of the French language, l'Ordre des ergothérapeutes du Québec (the Order) may issue a **regular license** to persons whose knowledge of the official language is appropriate to the practice of their profession. A person is deemed to have the appropriate knowledge if :

1) he has received, full time, no less than 3 years of secondary or post-secondary instruction provided in French; or
2) he has passed the 4th or 5th year secondary level examinations in French as the first language; or
3) from and after the school year 1985-86, he obtains a secondary school certificate in Québec.

In all other cases, a person must obtain a certificate issued by the *Office québécois de la langue française* or hold a certificate defined as equivalent by regulation of the Government.

The Order can issue a **license valid for a temporary basis** to a candidate with a **degree in occupational therapy obtained from a university located outside Quebec** who is unable to provide proof of knowledge of the French language.
The temporary license allows you to work as an occupational therapist while simultaneously studying French and trying to succeed the OQLF French exam.

French exam

How to register for the French exam ?

When your temporary license is issued, the Order will provide you with the information required to create an account on the OQLF Portal website. This will allow you to complete and submit the French exam registration form.

When should I take the French exam ?

You must take the French exam at least once in the next 12 months, before your temporary license expires. The exam is only offered a few times a year. The exam dates will be available on the OQLF Portal website.

What happens if I don't take the French exam within the next 12 months ?

If you do not take the OQLF French exam at least once during the period of validity of your license, you will not be able to renew your license and you will also be excluded from the Roll of the Order.

What happens if I pass the French exam ?

If you pass the French exam, we will issue you a regular license, valid indefinitely.

What happens if I fail the French exam ?

If you fail the French exam, you can re-sit the exam after a period of at least 3 months since your last attempt (you can re-sit the exam as many times as you wish).
You must take the exam **at least once** during the validity of your license.

If you do not pass the French exam before your temporary license expires, you can apply for its renewal (see section *Renewal of the licence issued temporarily).*

About the French exam

The exam aims to assess the four components of language proficiency: oral expression, written expression, oral comprehension and written comprehension. The assessment takes the form of a case study related to the context of the occupational therapy profession. The main task is to analyze a situation with the collaboration of other candidates of the Order with the aim of arriving at a solution or a recommendation. However, professional skills are not assessed as part of the French exam.
To succeed the exam, the person must succeed each of the activities during the same evaluation session.
For more information, please visit the OQLF website:
https://www.oqlf.gouv.qc.ca/francisation/ordres_prof/ordres.html, section *Examens de français*.
The OQLF also provides you with a video as well as a fictional case study that gives you the opportunity to learn more about the exam and how it is conducted. The scenario presents three examples of texts whose level of difficulty is similar to that of the texts that will be used during the exam, while the video illustrates the different stages of the exam in animated form.

Learn French

If you want to learn French or improve it before taking the French exam, you can consult the following resources :

- The Government of Quebec offers French courses. These courses can be accompanied by financial aid under certain conditions : Learn French

- Organizations with which the OQLF has developed collaboration agreements : https://www.oqlf.gouv.qc.ca/francisation/ordres_prof/cours/liste_cours.pdf

Renewal of the license issued temporarily

How do I renew my license ?

In order to renew your license, you must meet all of the following requirements:

• Take the OQLF exam at least once before your temporary license expires;

• Add your information in the section reserved for you on the OQLF portal website. To do so, you must have received an email from OQLF advising you to proceed. If this is the case, then log in to the OQLF French exam portal and select the *Permis temporaire* tab.

- If you are currently employed, you must submit a letter from your employer (or yourself if you are self-employed), in French, indicating where you work, your job title, and explaining why it is essential and in the public's interest that your licence be renewed;
- Write any additional and relevant information in the comment section (eg : if you are currently taking French classes) .

Once you have completed your section, both the OEQ and the OQLF will need to approve your renewal request. If this is the case, your temporary license will be renewed for an additional 12 months.

How many times can I renew my license ?

You can renew your temporary license up to 3 times, each for a period of 12 months, provided you meet the requirements described above each time.

What happens if my license expires ?

It is important to respect all required deadlines. If your temporary license expires before its renewal, or if you have used all possible renewals**, your license will no longer be valid and you will be excluded from the Roll of the Order, that is to say :**

- You may not use the title of *ergothérapeute* or occupational therapist, be advertised or referred to as an *ergothérapeute* or an occupational therapist, or imply that you are an ergothérapeute or an occupational therapist;
- You will not be able to carry out professional activities reserved for members of the OEQ.

If you use the title of *ergothérapeute* or occupational therapist or carry out professional activities reserved for members of the OEQ when you are not a member of the Roll of the Order, you expose yourself to criminal proceedings under the Professional Code. If found guilty, you could be fined anywhere from $2,500 to $62,500. Your employer could also be fined.

What happens if I don't succeed the French exam before my third and final renewed license expires ?

You will be excluded from the Roll of the Order and will no longer be able to practice occupational therapy in Quebec. The only option that will allow you to practice occupational therapy in Quebec will be to **succeed the OQLF exam** in order to obtain a **regular license**. To do this, you must contact the OQLF directly and make an appointment to take the exam. There is no limit to the number of times you can take the exam. Once you have passed the exam, you will be able to obtain your regular license and rejoin the Roll of the Order. **Warning :** if 3 years pass following the expiry of your license or your exclusion from the Roll of the Order, you will have to submit a new application for admission to the Order. The Order may need to assess your professional skills.