

TABLE 1 Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) Steps for Credentialing

STEP	REQUIREMENT	ESTIMATED TIME	ESTIMATED COST (USD)*	NOTES
1a. Enrollment	Graduate (or final year veterinary student) of foreign non-AVMA-accredited listed school only	Immediate once paid	\$675 (application fee) \$725 (QAP fee)	Nonrefundable application fee, QAP fee refundable up to 60 days
1b. Credential verification	Submit transcripts and diplomas	1–3 months	Independent school fees	Documents must be signed and notarized (original or certified copies). Must have certified translations if not in English. Delays common due to translation and verification.
2. English language proficiency	Pass TOEFL iBT, IELTS, or CAEL	2–6 months (including prep). Scores are valid for 2 years.	TOEFL: ~\$195–\$325 IELTS: ~\$245–\$340 CAEL: ~\$290	Required unless a native English speaker or 3 years in English-speaking high school (college or university not accepted)
3. Basic and Clinical Sciences Exam (BCSE)	Pass 225 multiple-choice question, computer-based exam	1–6 months (including prep and scheduling)	\$220 (exam fee) ~\$500+ (study materials)	Must pass before scheduling CPE. Typically taken at Prometric centers.
4. Clinical Proficiency Exam (CPE)	3-day, 7-part, hands-on exam Small animal: Clinical skills, case assessment, medicine Anesthesia: Canine Surgery: Canine OVH Radiology Equine: Lameness exam, radiology, clinical skills, medicine Cattle and food animal: Pregnancy check, dystocia, clinical skills, medicine Necropsy	6–12+ months (waitlist and travel)	\$12804 (exam fee) ~\$2000–\$5000 (travel, lodging, costs) \$4571 (per section retake fee)	Pass rates ~45%–55% for first attempt. Retakes incur additional section-based fees. Long wait times for open seats.
Reregistration	Be active in the ECFVG program	Immediate once paid	\$120	Original registration fee is valid for 2 years. Must reregister every 2 years (even if scheduled for an exam).
Miscellaneous costs	N/A	Ongoing	~\$1500–\$3000	Certified translations, notary fees, vaccination updates, visa renewals, document shipping, retakes, etc.
North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE)	Pass 360 multiple-choice question, computer-based exam	1–6 months (including prep and scheduling)	\$800 \$380 (international fee if outside United States, U.S. territories, or Canada)	- Must pass BCSE before scheduling NAVLE. Typically taken at Prometric centers. - Not part of the ECFVG, but needed to obtain licensing. Due to similarities with the BCSE, many take this exam soon after passing the BCSE.

CAE = Canadian Academic English Language Assessment; IELTS = International English Language Testing System; OVH = ovariectomy; QAP = Quality Assurance Program; TOEFL iBT = Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test.

*These numbers do not account for the mental and emotional toll on the candidate.