

How an International Medical Graduate Become a Registered Physician in Canada?

LANGUAGE

You require proficiency in English or French to become registered or licensed in Canada. Candidates must have a working knowledge of French in Québec. New Brunswick candidates must be proficient in either French or English. English is the predominant language spoken in most other provinces. Bilingualism (French and English) is an asset.

IMMIGRATION

You can find out how to obtain a visa to work as a physician in Canada at the Canadian Consulate nearest you.

LICENSURE

In Canada, each provincial and territorial government is responsible for licensing physicians to practice medicine within its boundaries. Licensure to practice medicine in Canada requires the completion of an accredited postgraduate training program, as well as the completion of national qualifying exams. Each individual province and territory may have different requirements.

Stage 1: Physicians Credentials Registry

An acceptable medical degree granted by an approved university that will need to be source verified.

The candidate must check with the organization with whom he or she is applying to find out which documents need to be sent to the Physician Credentials Registry of Canada. Once the documents are source verified, they are stored for life in the Registry, and can be shared with many organizations with whom the candidate is applying.

Stage 2 : Exams for Medical Knowledge and Language

Pass the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Exam ([MCCEE](#)) in order to demonstrate equivalent general medical knowledge.

Language: Provide proof of language proficiency. This may involve taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language ([TOEFL](#)) and the Test of Spoken English ([TSE](#)). In Québec, this involves taking the French exam of the *Office québécois de la langue française*.

Stage 3: Postgraduate Training

Must complete supervised clinical training or assessment to meet licensure educational requirements. The number of places in the assessment programs and postgraduate training system are limited.

[CaRMS](#) and [IMG-specific programs](#) are the main points of access to postgraduate training. IMG-specific programs also offer assessments.

In some cases, specialists are permitted to take the certification exams without additional postgraduate training through [special assessments](#) of equivalency of training by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Stage 4: Provincial/Territorial Registration and Licensure

All provinces and territories accept the Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada and certification in either Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada or in another specialty certified through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Provinces and territories also accept other qualifications for licensure on an individual basis.

Canadian certification in Family Medicine is provided through the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Certification in other specialties is provided by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Upon completion of residency training:

- Family Physicians must pass the [College of Family Physicians of Canada](#) Certification Exam.
- Other Specialists must pass the [Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#) Certification Exam specific to their specialty.

In Québec, attestation in Family medicine or certification in another specialty is provided through the Collège des médecins du Québec.

Stage 5: Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC)

The [LMCC](#) is also one of the requirements to obtain an independent license to practice medicine in most of the provinces/territories of Canada. In addition to a pass standing on the MCC Evaluating Exam, the IMG physician must have passed the [MCC Qualifying Examination Part I](#) and the [MCC Qualifying Examination Part II](#). The physician must have completed a minimum of twelve months of acceptable postgraduate training in order to be eligible for the MCC Qualifying Examination Part II. Source verification of the medical degree/diploma is required for eligibility to take the Qualifying Examination Part II.

Remarks:

1. The above information is obtained from <http://www.img-canada.ca/>. This web site is a central resource for [International Medical Graduates](#) (IMGs) . If you want more information, please take a look there. Another useful website is <http://www.evaluatingexam.com/>.
2. The exams are not very difficult. But there are not many intern positions per year for the international medical graduates. 10-20 years ago it was really hard to get chance for practising medicine in Canada for international medical graduates. In the recent years the Canadian government recognized the problem and changed the policy. Now there are more intern positions for international medical graduates. Still there are risks that one can't find an intern position after he/she has passed all the exams. One needs to look into the job market before he/she decides to take this path.

加拿大多伦多校友会祝小平及欧洲校友会杜澄供稿

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