



## ✓ CHECK LIST

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### PHYSICIANSAPPLY.CA

[physiciansapply.ca](http://physiciansapply.ca) is a centralized, confidential website for medical students, international medical graduates, and Canadian medical graduates to:

- Apply for medical registration.
- Register for exams and see exam results.
- Verify and store their medical credentials.
- Share credentials and documents with registered organizations.
- Have their credentials and other related documents translated.
- Request an Educational Credential Assessment for immigration to Canada.

### INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL SCHOOLS

To be eligible to practice medicine in BC, the medical school that you attend must be listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools and be recognized in Canada.

### IMMIGRATION INFORMATION - APPLICATION TO WORK IN CANADA

An international medical graduate who is not already a permanent resident or citizen of Canada will need to apply for a permit to work in Canada through Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

- International medical graduates may be able to apply for a temporary residence permit which allows working in Canada, then submit an application for permanent residency after a period of time.
- All the information about applying is available online at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/>

- [Health Match BC](#) is very helpful with questions about how to obtain the necessary forms and Labour Market Opinion for working in Canada.
- If you currently hold a non-permanent visa/permit for Canada, please ensure that it permits the employment you are seeking in BC – you may need to apply for a new visa/permit if your current document limits you to practice in another province.
- If you are seeking permanent residency or Canadian citizenship, be sure to confirm the length of time the process will take.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

As a IMG, you may be required to take an English language proficiency exam if your medical degree was obtained from a medical school where the instruction was not English, and if the primary language of patient care was not English.

- The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) provides a reliable and internationally accessible means to demonstrate language proficiency.
- The IELTS Academic test is the only version accepted by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC.
- More information about English language proficiency requirements can be found on the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC website: [www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/REG-ELP.pdf](http://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/REG-ELP.pdf)

You are exempt from taking the English language proficiency exam if your medical degree was obtained in the English language, the primary language of patient care was English and the first and native language of where the medical degree was obtained is English.

### MEDICAL COUNCIL OF CANADA EVALUATING EXAMINATION

This exam must be taken to practice medicine in Canada if you are graduating or graduated from a medical school outside Canada which is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools.

About the exam:

- Four-hour, computer-based exam.
- Assesses basic medical knowledge in 180 multiple choice questions.
- May be taken in English or French.
- Preparation resources can be found online at: <http://mcc.ca/examinations/mccee/exam-preparation-resources/>
- Need a [physiciansapply.ca](http://physiciansapply.ca) account and log in to the portal to apply.
- 500 test centres all over the world with listings available online at: <http://mcc.ca/examinations/mccee/list-of-countries-for-prometric-centres/>
- There are several sessions throughout the year with opportunities to take the exam.
- All the information for the exam is available online at: <http://mcc.ca/examinations/mccee/>

### NATIONAL ASSESSMENT COLLABORATION OBJECTIVE STRUCTURED CLINICAL EXAMINATION (NAC OSCE)

This is an exam that assesses the readiness of an IMG for entrance into a Canadian medical residency program. Through a series of clinical scenarios, the NAC OSCE tests knowledge skills and attitudes essential for entry into postgraduate training.

### CANADIAN RESIDENT MATCHING SERVICE (CaRMS)

The [Canadian Resident Matching Service \(CaRMS\)](#) is a national, independent, not-for-profit, fee-for-service organization that provides a fair, objective and transparent application and matching service for medical training throughout Canada.

- CaRMS uses a [Match Algorithm](#) to match students into postgraduate medical training programs throughout Canada.
- The R-1 Main Residency Match is for entry level postgraduate positions and is offered in two iterations each year.

- The first iteration is available to all graduating students and prior year graduates from Canada and the US who meet the basic eligibility criteria and have no prior postgraduate training in Canada or the US. It is also open to graduates from international medical schools (IMGs) who meet the basic criteria and have no prior postgraduate training in Canada or the US.
- The second iteration includes positions and applicants not matched in the first iteration, as well as applicants with previous Canadian or US postgraduate training and other applicants who did not participate in the first iteration.
- Consult the [eligibility criteria](#) on the CaRMS website for more information.

### **MEDICAL COUNCIL OF CANADA QUALIFYING EXAMINATION PART I (MCCQE 1)**

This is an exam which must be completed to continue into postgraduate training in Canada. Over a full day, this computer-based test assesses your knowledge, clinical skills, and attitudes.

### **MEDICAL COUNCIL OF CANADA QUALIFYING EXAMINATION PART II (MCCQE 2)**

This is an exam which must be completed to ensure licensing for independent clinical practice in Canada. Over two days, (for a total of 3.5 hours), this exam assesses your clinical competency through a series of clinical simulation stations.

### **CERTIFICATION OF THE COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF CANADA (CCFP)**

This is certification awarded by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) and is needed to obtain a full licence to practice in BC, from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC.

### **RETURN OF SERVICE**

All international medical graduates who complete their medical residency in BC are required to do a Return of service for two years in underserved areas of British

Columbia. A Return of service contract is attached to an IMG position for the two year period.

Return of service obligations vary from province to province. Provincial criteria for each province and a Return of service draft contract can be found on the [CaRMS website](#).

### **FULL LICENSE AND REGISTRATION**

Well done! You are now ready to look for a job or to go out there and practice in BC.

To obtain full licensure in BC, you must:

- Be a graduate from a medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools.
- Hold the LMCC or a complete set of US licensing examinations (all steps of USMLEs, FLEX, COMLEX, or NBME).
- Hold CCFP Certification from the College of Family Physicians of Canada (by examination or reciprocity).
- Be a citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada.

Physicians who currently hold Provisional licensure in BC must meet all of the above requirements and complete at least three months of supervised practice before they can be considered for transfer to the Full class. Any physician with Return of Service obligations may be required to complete these before consideration for transfer to the Full class.

If you have met all the relevant requirements above, contact the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC to request a transfer to Full licensure. If you require assistance obtaining permanent residence or Canadian citizenship, Health Match BC may be able to assist you in this process.

*Remember, there are many supports help you have a fulfilling experience as a general practitioner in BC. These supports include local Divisions of Family Practice and their partners who can help transition to your new practice by connecting you with the medical and greater community.*