

Live and work as a medical doctor in Canada

We're making the path to permanent residence simpler for international medical doctors to support a stable health care system for Canadians.

Choose Canada for your medical career

You can apply for permanent residence through Express Entry, and regional, provincial and territorial programs

New

Express Entry category for medical doctors who have at least 1 year of full-time Canadian work experience as a medical doctor, in the last 3 years

New

5,000 federal immigration spaces reserved through the Provincial Nominees Program to nominate medical doctors with job offers or letters of support to live and work in Canada permanently

New

Medical doctors nominated by a province or territory will also get a **work permit processed in 14 days**, so they can work while they wait for permanent residence

You can **include your family members** in your application

Find your pathway to Canada

To work as a medical doctor in Canada, you must first:

get your foreign credentials assessed, **and**
get licensed as a medical doctor in Canada through a provincial or territorial regulatory authority

You have experience working as a medical doctor in Canada

You haven't worked as a medical doctor in Canada

Canada's healthcare sector and immigration

31%

of family physicians in Canada were internationally trained in 2024

[Canadian Institute for Health Information](#)

1 in 4

health care workers are immigrants

[Statistics Canada 2021 Census](#)

More than 11,000

health care workers arrived in 2024 through economic immigration programs



Others working in the health care system

If you work in health care, but aren't a medical doctor, you may be eligible for different programs.

We will continue to use Express Entry to invite candidates with other health care work experience. You may also have other options for immigrating to Canada.

You may need to [get your foreign credentials assessed](#) first, which can take time.

Foreign Credential Recognition

Information for internationally trained professionals who want to work in regulated professions or compulsory trades in Canada.

These jobs usually require a licence or certificate. Here you will find important information on how to get your foreign credentials recognized in Canada.

Current position:

00:00:00

Total time:

00:01:22

[Transcript](#)

If you plan to work in a regulated occupation or compulsory trade in Canada, you will first need to have your credentials recognized to verify that the education, training and experience you've obtained are equivalent to standards for the profession or trade in the province or territory where you wish to work.

You will also need to become licenced or certified in Canada before you can work in the profession or trade.

This process can vary by occupation and by province or territory. To understand the specific process for you and your unique circumstances, it's best to contact the regulatory authority for your occupation in the province or territory where you wish to work, ideally before you arrive in Canada.

Use the Foreign Credential Recognition Tool to check if your occupation is regulated or compulsory where you plan to work and to find the right regulatory authority to contact.

There can be costs associated with this process. Foreign Credential Recognition Loans of up to \$30,000 are available to help with things like fees for licensing and qualifying exams, education and training programs and more. Support services are also available to help you during the process.

For more information, visit Canada.ca/foreign-credential-recognition

Getting started

[What is Foreign Credential Recognition](#)

What foreign credential recognition is, who it affects, and why it matters.

[How to get foreign credentials recognized](#)

Find out how to start getting your foreign credentials recognized for the job you want.

[Foreign Credential Recognition Loans](#)

Learn about loans and support services that can help you during the credential recognition process.

[Additional services available](#)

Explore other services to help you transition to life in Canada.

Learn about foreign credential recognition

What is foreign credential recognition

If you are an internationally trained professional and would like to work in a regulated occupation or compulsory trade in Canada, you will need to have your credentials recognized by the **regulatory body** for the profession or trade in the province or territory in which you intend to work.

The foreign credential recognition process is to verify that education, skills, and job experience obtained in another country are equivalent to the standards established for the profession or trade in the province or territory of work.

You will also need to obtain licensure or certification before you can work in the profession or use the designated title. This process takes time and can be costly. It is important to understand the process for your occupation and unique circumstances **before arriving in Canada** and to start the process as early as possible.

How to get your credentials recognized

How to get foreign credentials recognized

To start the foreign credential recognition process, check if your occupation or trade is regulated and contact the regulatory body in the province or territory in which you intend to work.

Please note: The research tool will open results in a new tab.

Use the [Foreign Credential Recognition Tool](#) to:

- check if your profession or trade is regulated in the province or territory where you want to work
- find the regulatory body for your profession or trade
- find job descriptions and career opportunities
- look up average salaries and job outlooks in your field

Foreign Credential Recognition Loans

During the foreign credential recognition process, you may need to pay fees for exams, additional training, tuition, or other expenses. To help with these costs, you can apply for one of our Foreign Credential Recognition Loans from \$15,000 up to \$30,000. Support services are also available to assist you, including career counseling and planning, mentorship, and job readiness workshops and job search assistance.

Use the Foreign Credential Recognition Loans search feature to locate an service provider near you:

Immigration status **(required)**

Make your selection...Permanent resident in CanadaTemporary resident in CanadaRefugee in CanadaCanadian citizen

Additional services available

We also fund services to help you prepare to live and work in Canada.

Pre-arrival services

If your application for permanent residence to Canada has been approved, and you are outside of Canada, you may be eligible to receive [Pre-Arrival Services](#).

These services can help you prepare for your move to Canada, and provide information to:

- get your education, work experience and credentials recognized
- connect you with employers
- find free services after you arrive

Newcomer services

Newcomer services help permanent residents adjust to their new lives in Canada. Settlement service providers provide information on living and working in Canada. [Find newcomer services near you.](#)

Job Bank

While you go through the credential recognition process, you can also use the [Job Bank](#), a free resource for job searching from the Government of Canada. It offers:

- tools for job searching and exploring careers
- resources to find careers you could transition to
- a career quiz to find other jobs that might be a good fit for you

Pathways for international medical graduates

Overview

The pathway to licensure in Canada for students, graduates from [acceptable international medical schools](#), or internationally trained physicians, will vary for each person. The level of experience and the province or territory they want to practise in are two important factors.

The requirements for each province or territory are defined by that jurisdiction's [medical regulatory authority \(MRA\)](#). It is essential that candidates check the requirements outlined by the MRA of the jurisdiction where they want to practise.

This page outlines some of the common steps for international medical graduates (IMGs) planning to practise in Canada, but it is not an exhaustive resource. It is intended as a guide to better understand some of the actions that may be required to practise medicine in Canada and how the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) may be involved. It is essential that candidates check the requirements outlined by the MRA of the province or territory they are interested in practising in.

[View list of MRAs](#)

Common steps on the pathway to licensure

IMGs may need to complete all or some of the following steps at the beginning of their pathway to licensure in Canada.

Complete a language test

All practising physicians in Canada need to be able to communicate clearly with their patients in English or French. For IMGs whose medical degree is from a country where the first language is neither English nor French, demonstrating language proficiency in one of the two official languages is part of the pathway to licensure set by MRAs.

Several language testing options are available, and the one(s) you choose may depend on your goals, skill level, or the timeline of your planned immigration. For example, candidates may elect to take a language test prior to taking the MCC exams to prepare for success.

Check with the MRA in the province or territory where you would like to practice and with [Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Canada](#) to review the accepted language test options and recency requirements.

[View list of MRAs](#)

Before you arrive in Canada

Some steps may be completed outside Canada, allowing you to maintain your clinical practice and professional networks while progressing toward licensure in Canada.

[Learn about pre-arrival](#)

Create a physiciansapply.ca account

A physiciansapply.ca account will give you access to important services, such as source verification of your medical credentials, and to the application for the MCC exams that you may need on your pathway to licensure. To be eligible for MCC services and examinations, you must have obtained or be expected to obtain an acceptable medical degree from an acceptable medical school.

[Learn about physiciansapply.ca](#)

Verify your medical credentials

Using the MCC source verification request service* through your physiciansapply.ca account, have your medical credentials source verified.

[Learn about source verification](#)

*Candidates interested in practising in Ontario should contact the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario for source verification.

Pass the MCCQE

Prepare for and challenge the MCC Qualifying Examination (MCCQE), Canada's national standardized exam assessing candidates at a level expected of a student about to graduate with a medical degree in Canada.

[Learn about the MCCQE](#)

Pass the NAC Examination

Prepare for and challenge Canada's national standardized exam that assesses international medical students' and IMGs' readiness to enter supervised training in Canada. For example, this exam is required for those looking to enter the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) for a postgraduate training program, as well as a screening tool for some provincial Practice-Ready Assessment (PRA) programs.

[Learn about the NAC Examination](#)

Choosing the right pathway for you

IMGs have several options for acceptable postgraduate training for licensure in Canada. Depending on the pathway you choose, the MCC may play a role in further assessment as well as your application for medical registration with an MRA. Other options not listed below may also be available to you.

CaRMS match

Available for IMGs who have not completed postgraduate training or who have completed postgraduate training outside of Canada and are willing to retrain. In this pathway, IMGs will need to apply to, be matched with, and complete a Canadian residency program through CaRMS.

[Timing the CaRMS match and your MCC exams](#)

Practice-Ready Assessment programs

Available to IMGs who have already completed their residency and practised independently abroad. In this pathway, IMGs can apply to provincial Practice-Ready Assessment (PRA) programs to complete a clinical workplace-based assessment over a period of 12 weeks.

[Learn about PRA programs](#)

Approved jurisdictions

Available to IMGs who are coming from approved jurisdictions where training has been deemed to be substantially equivalent to Canadian training. The

College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), and the Collège des médecins du Québec (CMQ) set requirements and any applicable assessments for these pathways to licensure.

Go to cfpc.ca
Go to royalcollege.ca
Go to cmq.ca

Practice Eligibility Route

Available to IMGs who have completed postgraduate medical training outside of Canada in a recognized primary specialty.

Find answers to common questions about the Practice Eligibility Route application and certification processes in the Guidebook.

Learn about PER
Read the Guidebook

Licensing, certification, and registration

The requirements for medical registration are set by each MRA and are different between provincial and territorial jurisdictions. Most MRAs require some of the following steps to be granted full licensure to practise medicine in that province or territory.

Apply for your LMCC

Apply for and be granted the Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC), an important component of the Canadian Standard.

Learn about the LMCC

Apply for a specialty certificate

You will need to apply for a specialty certificate with the RCPSC, the CFPC or the CMQ.

Go to royalcollege.ca
Go to cfpc.ca
Go to cmq.ca

Apply for medical registration with MRAs

In Canada, you need to apply for medical registration with the provincial and territorial MRA of the jurisdiction you would like to practise. Each MRA may have different requirements, so it is important to familiarize yourself with those applicable to you. You will be able to apply for medical registration through your physiciansapply.ca account to most MRAs.

See list of MRAs

eBook: Physician Licensing in Canada

The *Physician Licensing in Canada* eBook is a practical guide to clinical assistant, associate physician, and Practice-Ready Assessment pathways. Use the eBook to understand the requirements for applying to each province in these roles, assisting your decision of which province and program best match your qualifications and experience.

The eBook is a summary of information publicly available from the medical regulatory authorities and Practice-Ready Assessment programs, as compiled by Dr. Filipe Nadir Caparica Santos, IMG Consultant.

Eligibility and selection requirements can change at any time without notice. Always confirm requirements directly with your preferred provincial or territorial program.

Medical regulatory authorities

[Collège des médecins du Québec](#)

[College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta](#)

[College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia](#)

[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba](#)

[College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick](#)

[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland & Labrador](#)

[College of Physicians & Surgeons of Nova Scotia](#)

[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario](#)

[College of Physicians & Surgeons of Prince Edward Island](#)

[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan](#)

[Government of Northwest Territories](#)

Before you arrive in Canada:

How to prepare for the licensing journey — May 2025

The Medical Council of Canada (MCC) recognizes the importance of clear information for internationally trained physicians (ITPs) who are considering a future in Canada's health care system. That is why we have developed practical guidance to help you understand what steps to take before arriving in Canada.

The steps outlined below may be completed outside Canada, allowing you to maintain your clinical practice and professional networks while progressing toward licensure in Canada.

Use the IMG-L framework to plan your licensing journey

The IMG-L framework includes four essential requirements to prepare for relocating to Canada:

1. **I** – Immigration
2. **M** – Medical licensing
3. **G** – Gap or currency of practice
4. **L** – Language requirements

Immigration

It is essential to hold a valid immigration status—such as a work permit, permanent resident status, or Canadian citizenship—to work in Canada. A

valid immigration status is required for the Canadian Residency Matching Service (CaRMS) and some Practice-Ready Assessment (PRA) routes.

Express Entry system

The three types of invitation rounds

Permanent Residence options for ITPs through the Provincial Nominee Program

Medical licensing

Before you arrive in Canada, you can take these important steps towards licensure:

Create a physiciansapply.ca account

Take the MCCQE

Plan to take the NAC Examination

Explore and select your provincial or territorial licensing pathway(s)

Practice Eligibility Route for specialists

Gap or currency of practice

Maintaining recent clinical practice is a common requirement for licensure across various pathways. While specific allowances vary by jurisdiction, a prolonged interruption—often referred to as a “practice gap”—makes it more difficult to meet eligibility criteria for programs such as CaRMS and PRA pathways. Whenever possible, you are encouraged to remain in active clinical practice until the transition to licensure in Canada is well underway. One way to reduce the impact of a practice gap is to start the licensing process as early as possible while continuing to practise independently in your country of residence or in another jurisdiction where you hold independent licensure.

Note that certain activities do not constitute a practice gap. Full-time enrolment in a medical school program or participation in a postgraduate residency program that is accredited according to the national accreditation standards of your country of residence is generally not considered a practice gap. Similarly, completion of an accredited internship year or participation in a clinical fellowship—where the fellowship includes direct patient care responsibilities—is typically not regarded as a gap, although rare exceptions may apply.

By contrast, clinical research positions where the physician does not hold a medical licence to practise (whether or not the research is educationally focused) are generally considered a gap in practice. Volunteer roles without an active medical licence, as well as positions such as medical assistant, are also considered gaps and are not recognized as maintaining clinical currency.

Clinical assistant or associate physician roles are not equivalent to independent clinical practice. However, in some jurisdictions and under certain PRA programs, time worked as a licensed clinical assistant or associate physician in Canada may be recognized as current clinical practice for the purposes of bridging a gap. For example, Saskatchewan and Ontario currently allow time in such roles to be counted as recent clinical experience to meet the requirements of their PRA – Family Medicine pathways. Other provinces and territories may not yet recognize this type of experience to meet currency-of-practice requirements.

The MCC acknowledges that physicians may experience unavoidable interruptions in their practice because of displacement, family emergencies, or other personal or systemic hardships. Nonetheless, it is important to anticipate potential delays—such as those associated with credential verification or examination scheduling—and to plan proactively to minimize practice gaps. These efforts will support a smoother transition to medical practice in Canada.

Language requirements

Every province or territory requires proficiency in the language of practice. This is typically English, except in New Brunswick, where either English or French is accepted, and in Quebec, where French is required. While provincial or territorial programs define the final criteria, most adhere to the following minimum standards:

To demonstrate English proficiency there are three acceptable tests and the minimum score (achieved within 24 months of your application to a provincial or territorial program) for each is as follows:

1. *IELTS (International English Language Testing System) – Academic:*
You must achieve a minimum score of 7.0 in each of the four components in one sitting.
2. *OET (Occupational English Test) – Medicine:*
You must achieve a minimum grade of B in each subset in one sitting.

3. *CELP* (*Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program*) – *General*:
You must achieve a minimum score of 9 in each component in one sitting.

To demonstrate proficiency in French in Quebec, you must achieve a pass result on the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF) examination.

Exemptions to language requirements may apply if you have completed undergraduate or postgraduate training in an English- or French-speaking country or if you can demonstrate that most of your education or patient care has been in English or French. Individual provincial and territorial programs determine if you are eligible for an exemption. Please refer to their respective websites for full criteria.

Looking ahead

The journey to licensure in Canada is complex, but it can be more manageable if you have the right information and prepare accordingly. The MCC is committed to assisting you in this journey with reliable, centralized resources. We are also committed to working with regulatory bodies and PRA programs to ensure that licensure pathways are clear, efficient, and equitable.

Explore MCC's eBook for more details on licensing requirements and pathways across Canada:

Your services portal: physiciansapply.ca

A comprehensive account-based portal, physiciansapply.ca is run by the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) for Canadian and international medical students and graduates. It is a secure online account requiring only a one-time set-up fee, and gives access to helpful services including:

- Storage of your medical credentials in a centralized electronic repository
- Secure document sharing with Canadian medical regulatory authorities (MRAs) and other organizations who are registered with the MCC
- Access to MCC support to guide you through these services

You can also use your physiciansapply.ca account to access source verification of credentials, apply for examinations, and request the Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC) as well as other paid services.

Create your physiciansapply.ca account

1. Go to physiciansapply.ca.
2. Click **create an account** and follow the instructions.
3. Pay your physiciansapply.ca [account set-up fee](#).

If you previously had a MCC-Online or Physician Credentials Registry of Canada (PCRC-Online) account, contact our [service desk](#) to gain access to your existing account.

Services offered through physiciansapply.ca

[Submit a source verification request](#)

Submit your international medical credentials for verification before sharing them with Canadian MRAs and organizations.

[Apply for MCC exams](#)

Review eligibility requirements and apply for the MCC Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) and National Assessment Collaboration (NAC) Examination.

[View and share your documents and exam results](#)

Exam results and medical credentials can be viewed and easily shared with registered organizations. The File Transfer Service allows you to transfer your documents to organizations that are not registered with the MCC.

[Request an ECA report](#)

Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) reports are sometimes needed to immigrate to Canada (as part of the Federal Skilled Worker Program, for example) and can be requested in your account.

[Apply for your LMCC](#)

The LMCC is part of the Canadian Standard, which defines the set of requirements physicians need to meet to apply for a full license to practise medicine.

[Apply for medical registration](#)

To practise medicine in Canada, you must apply for medical registration with the MRA in that jurisdiction.

Some services in [physiciansapply.ca](#) require additional fees.

[View examination and service fees](#)

Language requirements for [physiciansapply.ca](#)

Medical credentials, passports, or other documents in a language other than English or French must be accompanied by an English or French translation to be uploaded and stored in your [physiciansapply.ca](#) account. The MCC requirements must be met for translations into English or French.

[Learn about document translation](#)

Funding for [physiciansapply.ca](#)

Run by the Medical Council of Canada, [physiciansapply.ca](#) has received funding from Employment and Social Development Canada as well as the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada and its members.

What is the MCCQE (formerly MCCQE Part I)?

The Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) is a summative examination that assesses the critical medical knowledge and clinical decision-making ability of a candidate at a level expected of a medical student who is completing their medical degree in Canada. Critical medical knowledge and clinical decision-making skills are assessed using multiple-choice questions.

Candidates graduating and completing the MCCQE typically enter supervised practice. Aside from formal accreditation processes of the undergraduate and postgraduate education programs, the MCCQE is the national standard for medical schools across Canada and, therefore, is administered at the end of medical school.

Passing the MCCQE is a requirement for international medical graduates applying for entry into a Canadian residency program. The exam is also used by some Practice-Ready Assessment programs as an eligibility criteria to select internationally trained physicians into their programs.

Obtaining a pass result on the MCCQE is one of the eligibility criteria you must meet to apply for the Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC). Canadian medical regulatory authorities may require you to have the LMCC to apply for a medical licence within their province or territory.

[Learn more about the LMCC](#)

How is the MCCQE delivered?

The MCCQE is a one-day, computer-based exam that is delivered in Canada and over 70 countries. The exam is offered during four sessions a year. Candidates take their exam at available Prometric test centres on a first-come, first-served basis.

[View MCCQE dates](#)

The exam consists of 230 [multiple-choice questions](#) (MCQs) divided into two sections of 115 items. Candidates are allowed up to two hours and forty minutes for each section as they complete the first section before the optional break and the second section after the optional break.

What does the MCCQE test?

The examination is based on the [MCC Examination Objectives](#), which are organized under the CanMEDS roles.

The exam is based on a blueprint that assesses your performance across two broad categories:

- Dimensions of care, covering the spectrum of medical care
- Physician activities, reflecting a physician’s scope of practice and behaviours

Each category has four domains, and each is assigned a specific content weighting on the exam:

		Dimensions of care				
		Health Promotion & Illness Prevention	Acute	Chronic	Psychosocial Aspects	Row %
Physician activities	Assessment/ Diagnosis					45±5
	Management					35±5
	Communication					10±5
	Professional Behaviours					10±5
Column %		20±5	35±5	30±5	15±5	100

Learn about resources to help with exam preparation

Eligibility requirements

To apply to the MCCQE, you must be a graduate from, or a student who is expected to complete all requirements to graduate from:

- A medical school accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS); or

A medical school listed in the [World Directory of Medical Schools](#) and identified by a Canada Sponsor Note indicating it is an [acceptable medical school](#) in Canada; or
A United States School of Osteopathic Medicine accredited by the American Osteopathic Association.

Limited exam attempts

You may take the MCCQE up to a maximum of 4 times. Carefully consider your circumstances and preparedness before each MCCQE attempt. Once you choose to start the exam, it will count as an attempt.

Exam attempts before 2018 do not count towards the total limit. A No Standing does not count as an attempt; a fail result or a Denied Standing are considered attempts.

You cannot retake the exam if you have a pass result.

After your third attempt, you will be required to wait 1 year from the time you receive the result before reapplying for your fourth attempt. This 1-year waiting period has been implemented to enable candidates to take the time to prepare for their fourth and final attempt, and it cannot be shortened or waived.

The limited exam attempts policy is applied consistently to all candidates.

Before applying: understanding the exam eligibility window

You will not be able to schedule your exam date until your application has been accepted. After your application is accepted, you will have a 12-month eligibility window to schedule and write the MCCQE at an available Prometric test centre. All exam appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Scheduling for an upcoming session opens approximately 5 months before the session start date. For example, if a session start date is on April 17, scheduling would open in early December of the previous year. Unless you extend your eligibility window, it will expire after 12 months or when you write the exam, withdraw from the exam, or are absent from the exam, whichever comes first.

If you are a student:

You can apply up to 15 months prior to your expected date of graduation. Once your application is accepted, your eligibility window will begin 12 months before your expected date of graduation. You can only schedule an exam appointment during this period.

For example:

Expected date of graduation: June 1, 2024

Application date: as early as March 1, 2023

Eligibility window: June 1, 2023 to June 1, 2024

Requesting a test accommodation in your exam application

If you have a documented functional limitation and associated accommodation need, you can request a test accommodation for the MCCQE. Keep in mind that exam applications that include a request for test accommodations will require up to 9 weeks processing time, once all the eligibility requirements have been fulfilled and all the required supporting documentation has been received.

[Learn more about test accommodations](#)

How to apply for the MCCQE

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you can apply for the MCCQE at any time through your [physiciansapply.ca](#) account by following the instructions below. If you do not already have an account, you will need to create one.

[Learn about physiciansapply.ca](#)

Applying as a Canadian medical student or graduate

1. If required, prepare copies of your [acceptable identity document\(s\)](#) that will need to be submitted with your exam application. Your primary

identity document(s) must be certified according to our [certification requirements](#).

2. Review the [guidelines on preparing your documents](#) to ensure your documents are ready for upload.
3. Log into your [physiciansapply.ca](#) account.
4. Click on **Examinations** from the main menu, then on **Apply for an exam**.
5. Follow the steps to complete your application and upload your documents as indicated on each page.
6. Submit payment for your [MCCQE I application fee](#).

Please allow up to 4 weeks for your application to be processed. You will receive a message in your account once your application has been accepted to confirm that you can schedule your exam appointment with Prometric.

> [Learn more about how to schedule your exam](#)

Information on applying to the 2027 CaRMS R-1 Main Residency

If you want to apply to the 2027 Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) R-1 Main Residency Match and verify your Canadian citizenship through the MCC and/or obtain a MINC, you must submit your MCCQE application and the required documents by **October 16, 2026** in order to obtain your Identity Validity Period (IVP) prior to the opening of file review on November 26, 2026.

Applying as an international medical student

Follow the steps below if you are an international medical student, a U.S. medical student or a student from a U.S. School of Osteopathic Medicine and would like to apply to take the MCCQE:

1. If required, prepare copies of your [acceptable identity document\(s\)](#) that will need to be submitted with your exam application. Your primary identity document(s) must be certified according to our [certification requirements](#).
2. Have the [Student attestation form](#) completed by your medical school. You will be required to upload the completed form when submitting your exam application.

3. Review the [guidelines on preparing your documents](#) to ensure your documents are ready for upload.
4. Log into your [physiciansapply.ca](#) account.
5. Click on **Examinations** from the main menu, then on **Apply for an exam**.
6. Follow the steps to submit your application and upload your documents as indicated on each page.
7. Complete payment for your [MCCQE application fee](#).

Please allow up to 4 weeks for your documents and application to be processed. You will receive a message in your account once your application has been accepted to confirm that you can schedule your exam appointment with Prometric.

If the MCC has previously reviewed all the necessary documentation, you may receive notification that your MCCQE application has been accepted sooner.

> [Learn more about how to schedule your exam](#)

Information for IMGs applying for the 2027 CaRMS R-1 Main Residency match

If you want to apply for the 2027 Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) R-1 Main Residency Match and provide results for both the MCCQE and the National Assessment Collaboration (NAC) Examination, you can choose to take the NAC Examination and the MCCQE in the order that you prefer.

> [Learn about CaRMS and MCC exams](#)

Applying as an international medical graduate

Follow the steps below if you are an international medical graduate (IMG), a U.S. medical graduate or a graduate from a U.S. School of Osteopathic Medicine and would like to apply to take the MCCQE:

1. If you have not already done so, create a [source verification request \(SVR\)](#) for your [medical degree](#) through your [physiciansapply.ca](#)

account. You can proceed with the exam application as soon as you have submitted and paid for the SVR for your medical degree.

2. If required, prepare copies of your [acceptable identity document\(s\)](#) that will need to be submitted with your exam application. Your primary identity document(s) must be certified according to our [certification requirements](#).
3. Review the [guidelines on preparing your documents](#) to ensure your documents are ready for upload.
4. Log into your [physiciansapply.ca](#) account.
5. Click on **Examinations** in the main menu, then click on **Apply for an exam**.
6. Follow the steps to submit your application and upload your documents as indicated on each page.
7. Submit payment for your [MCCQE application fee](#).

Please allow up to 4 weeks for your documents and application to be processed. Once your documents are approved and the status of your medical degree is **reviewed and accepted** in your physiciansapply.ca account, you will receive a message that your application is complete. At that time, you will be able to schedule your exam appointment with Prometric.

If the MCC has previously reviewed all the necessary documentation, you may receive notification that your MCCQE application has been accepted sooner.

> [Learn more about how to schedule your exam](#)

Information for IMGs applying for the 2027 CaRMS R-1 Main Residency match

If you want to apply for the 2027 Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) R-1 Main Residency Match and provide results for both the MCCQE and the National Assessment Collaboration (NAC) Examination, you can choose to take the NAC Examination and the MCCQE in the order that you prefer.

> [Learn about CaRMS and MCC exams](#)

Reapplying for the MCCQE

If you previously applied as:

An international medical student, a U.S. medical student, or a student from a U.S. School of Osteopathic Medicine, and your expected date for completion of medical degree requirements has changed since you first submitted your [Student attestation form](#), you must submit a new form.

A student and are now a graduate, you must [submit an SVR](#) through your physiciansapply.ca account for your medical degree.

A graduate and you have already submitted your final medical degree diploma for source verification, you are not required to resubmit the diploma.

Note: When reapplying, you may need to provide new [acceptable identity documents](#) if your identity validity period has expired.

Medical doctors with experience in Canada

You can apply for permanent residence in Canada through one of these programs, if you have experience working as a medical doctor in Canada.



You need to have your credentials assessed and a licence to work in Canada

To work as a medical doctor in Canada, first you must:

have your foreign credentials assessed, and be licensed as a medical doctor in Canada through a provincial or territorial regulatory authority

Express Entry (including a new category for physicians)

Choose this pathway if you meet these requirements:

- you're eligible for 1 of the 3 programs managed through Express Entry
- you have at least 1 year of full-time work experience as a medical doctor in Canada
- this work experience is in the last 3 years

You could be invited to apply through one of these round types:

- category-based selection rounds (under a new category for physicians) **New in 2026**
- general rounds of invitation
- program-specific rounds of invitation

How Express Entry rounds work

Immigrate through Express Entry

Check if you're eligible and get your documents ready

Before you create a profile, make sure you're eligible to apply for Express Entry. If you are eligible, you'll need to gather some [documents to create your profile](#).

2

Create or update your Express Entry profile

Once you have your documents, you're ready to create or update your profile and submit it to the Express Entry pool.

3

Wait for an invitation to apply

If you're currently working in Canada

[Extend your existing work permit](#) before it expires.

If you're outside Canada

[Apply for a work permit](#) if you want to work in Canada while you wait. You must have a job offer.

4

Apply for permanent residence

If you're eligible, you'll get an invitation to apply for permanent residence through an Express Entry round of invitations. You must submit your application within 60 days.

You can include these family members in your application:

- [spouse](#) or [common-law partner](#)
- [dependent child](#) (yours or your spouse or common-law partner's)
- dependent grandchild (the dependent child of your dependent child)

Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)

Choose this pathway if:

- you have a job, a job offer, or letter of support to work as a medical doctor in Canada

New Provinces and territories will have up to **5,000 federal immigration spaces reserved** to nominate medical doctors with job offers or letters of support.

Immigrate through the Provincial Nominee Program

1

Explore and get nominated by a province or territory

Each province or territory's website will have more information about the streams that are available, based on where you want to live and work.

Select a province or territory to learn about their PNP program (required)

Make your selection...AlbertaBritish ColumbiaManitobaNew

BrunswickNewfoundland and LabradorNorthwest TerritoriesNova

ScotiaNunavutOntarioPrince Edward IslandQuebecSaskatchewanYukon

2

Apply for permanent residence

First, you must apply for a nomination from the province or territory you're interested in.

If the province or territory nominates you, you can then apply to us for permanent residence. You can choose one of the 2 processes we offer under the Provincial Nominee Program.

You can include these family members in your application:

- [spouse](#) or [common-law partner](#)
- [dependent child](#) (yours or your spouse or common-law partner's)
- dependent grandchild (the dependent child of your dependent child)

3

Work while we process your application **Faster** **14-day processing**

Once nominated by a province or territory, you will be [eligible for an expedited work permit](#). This work permit will let you start working in Canada, if you aren't already, while you wait for us to process your permanent residence application.

No experience working as a medical doctor in Canada yet?

Or your Canadian work experience is more than 3 years old? You may be able to immigrate through another pathway. You must be able to get your credentials assessed and get licensed in Canada.

Medical doctors who haven't worked in Canada

Explore the programs below if you're an internationally-trained medical doctor and:

- you're interested in practicing in Canada, but
- you don't have Canadian experience as a medical doctor yet

You need to have your credentials assessed and a licence to work in Canada

To work as a medical doctor in Canada, first you must:

[get your foreign credentials assessed](#), **and**
[get licensed as a medical doctor in Canada](#) through a provincial or territorial regulatory authority

It can take time to complete both these steps.

You can apply to come to Canada as a medical doctor through one of these programs

Provincial Nominee Program

Choose this program if:

- you can get a job offer or letter of support to work as a medical doctor in one of Canada's provinces or territories

New Provinces and territories have up to **5,000 federal immigration spaces reserved** to nominate medical doctors with job offers or letters of support.

Express Entry

Choose this program if:

- you're eligible for 1 of the 3 programs managed through Express Entry
- you have experience working as a medical doctor
- you don't have a job offer in Canada yet

Atlantic Immigration Program

Choose this program if:

- you have work experience or you completed your post-secondary education in Atlantic Canada
- you can get a job offer from a designated employer
- you're interested in living in Atlantic Canada

Rural Community Immigration Pilot

Choose this program if:

- you have at least 1 year of work experience as a medical doctor in the last 3 years **or** you graduated from an eligible post-secondary school

- you can get a job offer from a designated employer
- you're interested in living in a smaller, rural community

Francophone Community Immigration Pilot

Choose this program if:

- you have at least 1 year of work experience as a medical doctor in the last 3 years **or** you graduated from an eligible post-secondary school
- you can get a job offer from a designated employer
- you can communicate in French
- you're interested in living in a Francophone community outside Quebec

You already have experience working as a medical doctor in Canada?

We have different options you may be eligible for, if your foreign credentials are already assessed and you have a license in Canada.