

Visa Trainee Admission Guidelines Postgraduate Medical Education

Postgraduate residency programs are encouraged to consider foreign-funded learners on work visas ('visa trainees') for admission. The Postgraduate Medical Education Office recommends the following admission guidelines. Individual residency programs may amend these guidelines with their own admission criteria.

1. Proficiency in English

The program must confirm an applicant's proficiency in English. The level of proficiency must be suitable to support patient care, participation in the training program, and full participation in the professional and social life of the department including smooth interaction with peers. The PGME office recommends using the CaRMs guidelines for language proficiency (Appendix 1).

Proficiency may also be determined through a combination of interviews and recognized English language tests such as TOEFL and IELTS (Appendix 2: Acceptable English language test scores).

2. Interviews

Programs must interview a candidate at least once, either in person or via Skype, Facetime, or an equivalent method.

3. Examinations

Applicants must have successfully completed the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE).

Programs may determine whether or not to require:

- entrance requirement examinations for admission purposes (such as the MCCQE-Part I)
- promotion requirement examinations (such as the MCCQE – Part II)
- graduation requirement examinations (such as RCPSC Board Examinations)

4. References

Programs will require candidates to provide acceptable letters of reference. Preference will be given to letters from referees who are known to the Department or have North American medical experience.

5. Registration/Orientation

The Postgraduate Medical Education Office will coordinate the registration process for visa trainees, and will provide trainees with general orientation information. The PGME office will also support programs wishing to develop their own orientation activities.

6. Offers of Admission

If a program wishes to make an offer of admission to a candidate, the Postgraduate Medical Education Office must be contacted prior to issuing any such offer.

Appendix 1. CaRMS Language Proficiency Requirements

<http://www.carms.ca/en/residency/r-1/eligibility-criteria/provincial-criteria/ontario/>

Language Requirements

IMG

Must provide proof of English or French language proficiency through **ONE** of the following:

a) International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum score of 7 in each component, OR

b) TOEFL-Ibt – passing score of 93 including a minimum score of 24 on the speaking section,

OR

c) A pass result in the French proficiency test administered by the Collège des Médecins du Québec,

OR

d) Candidates for whom their primary and secondary, or medical school education was conducted in English or French, the Ontario medical schools will accept Language Proficiency Attestations as follows:

– Primary and secondary education:

Mailed directly from the Senior Academic Administrators of both schools to the program confirming that all of the candidate's primary and secondary education was conducted completely in English or French

– Medical school:

Mailed directly from the Dean of the candidate's medical school confirming that the language of instruction and patient care was conducted completely in English or French OR

e) International Medical Education Directory (IMED) Language Option – If the instruction and the language of patient care at the undergraduate medical school was conducted completely in English or French, then a candidate can submit to the Program a copy or printout of the [IMED – FAIMER International Medical Education Directory](#) website listing the medical school which clearly states that the language of instruction is English or French.

Appendix 2. Acceptable scores on Tests of English

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

Internet Based Test (iBT)	88 Overall
	24 Writing
	22 Speaking
	22 Reading
	20 Listening

Paper Based Test	580
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International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – score of 7