A Resource Guide for Students with Canadian Citizenship

This document contains a brief overview of government regulations and other applicable information relating to visas, residency guidelines and Canadian licensure requirements, and is current as of March 2018. Please be aware that this document does not serve as individualized career or legal advice as the requirements of the American and Canadian governments, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) residency hospital systems and Canadian licensing and certifying agencies change periodically; also, the application of this information is both situation and student dependent. Consequently, it is the responsibility of each individual student that is impacted by this information to contact the appropriate agencies and systems in order to obtain the most up-to-date information regarding the requirements for his or her specific circumstances.

Pre-Doctoral Years

Preclerkship:
- You must continuously maintain your F-1 visa status.
- Contact the MSUCOM Registrar and / or your Career Guidance Advisor as soon as you know that you intend to apply for residency in Canada.
- MSUCOM will reimburse the cost of the USMLE (Step 1, CK and CS), MCCQE1 and NAC-OSCE for Canadian students who are enrolled in our four-year DO program. In order to receive your reimbursement, a copy of the exam registration and proof of payment must be provided to Meagan Semeyn. You can only receive reimbursement one time for each examination. Please direct all questions to Ms. Hamilton-Talley at AC.Guidance@gc.msu.edu and phone number 517-884-3893

Clerkship Years:
- You must continuously maintain your F-1 visa status, and during your senior year, it is your responsibility to contact the MSU Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) to secure an F-1 OPT visa to cover your first postgraduate residency year. The F-1 OPT can be applied for and sent to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for adjudication 90 days before the completion date of your graduation requirements. For example, a student completes her studies on May 4th. The student can and should apply for the F-1 OPT any time after February 5th. The student can select an OPT start date anytime between May 5th and July 3rd (within 60 days of completion date OPT can start, but you can apply 90 days prior to completion. All of this information is explained in the free D2L course all F-1 OPT applications must review prior to applying. Please follow this link for more information.
- It is recommended that you schedule clerkship rotations at ACGME hospitals or programs that have applied for ACGME accreditation.
- If you wish to schedule clerkship elective rotations at facilities that have residency programs in Canada, this requires approval from two individual entities (1) a host facility and (2) a sponsoring Canadian medical school. Obtaining such approval can take 6 months or more, so if you are interested in these opportunities begin making arrangements early.

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) Student Portal

A bilingual information hub and centralized application service for visiting electives for all Canadian faculties of medicine. Services are offered for Canadian and international undergraduate medical students.

Post-Doctoral Years

Applying for Residency in Canada:
- You must educate yourself on specific program requirements. You can begin this process now by exploring the Canadian medical specialty websites at https://www.carms.ca/en/. Please note that if you wish to pursue graduate medical education (GME) programs in Canada, MSUCOM is an "approved" non-Canadian medical school.
- To apply for residency in any Canadian GME program, you must successfully pass two examinations administered by agencies within Canada. Without the completion of these examinations, your application will not be considered. The two exams are the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Part I (MCCQE1) and the National Assessment Collaboration Examination (NAC).
- Individuals matching to residency with Ontario programs should be aware that completion of a pre-residency program would be required 3 months prior to the start of the residency program, no exceptions. A residency that begins July 1st, for example, will have a pre-residency training programs in April. Each program has set their own specific dates. What does this mean to you? You will have to plan your rotations accordingly so you are able to meet both your residency programs requirements as well as the graduation requirements of MSUCOM.

More information about these examinations can be found at:
Applying for Residency in United States:

- The Canadian government only recognizes ACGME training programs within United States. Therefore, if you plan to return to Canada after completing a residency program in the U.S., it is in your best interest to pursue ACGME residency programs only.

- Please be aware that there are ACGME residency programs in the United States that will only accept USMLE scores (and will not accept COMLEX examination scores). As you begin exploring residency programs, make sure you are informed about the specific requirements of your selected training program.

- MSUCOM will pay the registration fee for your first attempt only to take USMLE Step 1, Step 2CK, and Step 2CS. It is important that you take the USMLE for ACGME residency requirements (this will be beneficial to you regardless of whether you apply for residency in the United States or Canada.) As a reminder, regardless of whether you take the USMLE examinations, in order to graduate from MSUCOM, all students must successfully complete the COMLEX Level 1, Level 2CE and Level 2PE examinations.

- The F-1 OPT visa covers your first postgraduate residency year so prior to the second year of your residency training; you must obtain a visa, which will allow you to continue working legally in the United States. Amongst the visas that may be available to you two of the most commonly applied for include the J-1 visa and the H-1B visa. Regardless of which is obtained, it is your personal responsibility to remain in legal immigration status throughout your residency-training while in the United States.
  
  o ECFMG website Reference guide for J1 Visas
  o ECFMG J1 Visa Sponsorship Direct Phone Line:
    
    • 215-823-2121
  o Every ACGME hospital system handles the visa status of non-citizen resident candidates with its own unique procedures. Due to these important differences, you must contact the appropriate medical education office for the most up-to-date information for that hospital system, as MSUCOM is not able to advise each student as to the dynamic processes adhered to by individual training programs. To identify ACGME programs that offer H1B and/or J1 Visa, log in to the FREIDA database and type into keyword search.

Practicing-Physician Years

If you complete residency in the United States and wish to return to Canada to practice:

- The National Practice Guidelines to practice in Canada include the following information:
  
  o The candidate must receive certification by either the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), if you are a family physician, or from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), if you are a physician in any specialty other than family medicine.
  
  o Neither the USMLE nor the COMLEX examinations are recognized licensing boards in Canada. As a result, the candidate must complete the examinations of the Medical Council of Canada. More information about these examinations is available on this website: http://mcc.ca/examinations/mccce/
  
  o If you successfully completed an ACGME Family Medicine Residency and passed the American College of Family Medicine certifying board examination, the CFPC may extend certification by reciprocity to practice in Canada.
  
  o If you completed an ACGME approved residency in any other medical specialty, however, according to the National Practice Guidelines, the RCPSC will accept ACGME accredited residencies in the United States as meeting only partial completion of their requirements to practice. In many cases, specialty residencies in Canada are a year longer than in the United States, and a candidate may be required to participate in an additional year of training, often in the form of a fellowship, before being eligible to take the RCPSC examinations.
  
  o Due to the complexity of this issue, regardless of your area of practice, it is in your best interest to contact the appropriate Canadian specialty college in which you are interested in order to obtain the most accurate and up-to-date information.
### CANADIAN RESIDENCY LINKS

| **Contacting Canadian Resident Matching Services (CaRMS):** | [https://www.carms.ca/en/contact/](https://www.carms.ca/en/contact/) |
| **About (CaRMS):** | [https://www.carms.ca/en/about/](https://www.carms.ca/en/about/) |
| **Main Residency Match Provincial Restrictions:** | [https://www.carms.ca/en/residency/r-1/eligibility-criteria/](https://www.carms.ca/en/residency/r-1/eligibility-criteria/) |
| **CiM Careers in Medicine** | [https://www.aamc.org/cim/](https://www.aamc.org/cim/) |
| **Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS)** | [http://oiss.isp.msu.edu/](http://oiss.isp.msu.edu/) |
| **The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) Student Portal** | [https://www.afmcstudentportal.ca/](https://www.afmcstudentportal.ca/) |
| **Fellowship and Residency Electronic Interactive Database (FREIDA)** | [https://www.ama-assn.org/life-career/search-freida-online-am-residency-fellowship-database](https://www.ama-assn.org/life-career/search-freida-online-am-residency-fellowship-database) |
| **Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates Website Home Page** | [https://www.ecfmg.org/](https://www.ecfmg.org/) |

* Denotes information prepared by previous MSUCOM graduates. It is your responsibility to verify the accuracy of the student created documents.

This document does not serve as legal advice. It is the responsibility of each individual student that is impacted by this information to contact the appropriate agencies, systems or attorneys in order to obtain counsel or advice regarding his or her specific circumstances. Reviewed Feb-2018