

RESIDENCY FAIR

I HAVE OBTAINED MY MD - NOW WHAT?

The MD degree is not equivalent to a license for the practice of medicine. Two to six (or more) years of residency training are required before you can begin independent practice as a physician.

I ORGANIZATION OF POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

Accreditation of postgraduate programs in Canada rests with the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The faculties of medicine in each province are responsible for ensuring that the curricula and accreditation standards established by the national accreditation colleges are met. Within each faculty of medicine is a Postgraduate Medical Education Office to oversee this.

All postgraduate medical education trainees are registered in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta and are required to pay a small registration fee to the University of Alberta (the current fee can be found on the University of Alberta website). Resident physicians hold a dual role as a learner registered with the University of Alberta and as an employee of Alberta Health Services who acts as the paymaster. Salaries for resident physicians are negotiated between Alberta Health Services acting as the agent for the government (along with the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary) and the Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta (PARA) to which residents pay annual dues through payroll deductions. The current salary scale can be found in the Resident Physician Agreement listed on the PARA website. Other negotiated benefits are also listed in this agreement.

The total number of residency positions available at the University of Alberta is based on funding set by the Alberta government. The number of R1-entry level positions for each residency program can be found on the CaRMS website.

II CHOICES FOR POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

There are two streams for post-M.D. training in Canada, one leading to certification as a family physician by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) and the other to certification as a specialist by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). In addition to the Family Medicine Residency Program, over 60 specialty and subspecialty training programs are available at the University of Alberta. Each program is under the supervision of a designated Program Director.

A. Family Medicine

Attaining certification from the College of Family Physicians of Canada requires successfully completing the two-year training program and passing the CFPC certification examination taken in the final year of training. There are opportunities after Family Medicine residency to attain additional training and Certificates of Added Competence in Addiction Medicine, Care of the Elderly, Emergency Medicine, Enhanced Surgical Skills, Family Practice Anesthesia, Palliative Care and Sport and Exercise Medicine. Application to these programs is done via the CaRMS Family Medicine Enhanced Skills Match.

B. Specialty and Subspecialty Training

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada is responsible for the accreditation of specialty training programs in Canada. Attaining certification from the RCPSC requires successfully completing the training program and passing the RCPSC certification examination.

Another category of programs are the sub-specialties which are designated as "Certificate of Special Competence" Programs. These programs are usually of 2-3 years duration and are taken after completing the prerequisite primary certification program. It is necessary for the trainee to become certified in a relevant primary discipline before being eligible to take the examination leading to the Certificate of Special Competence in the sub-specialty.

Following is a list of R1-entry residency programs offered at the University of Alberta:

I. R1-entry Residency Programs

- Anesthesiology
- Cardiac Surgery
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Diagnostic and Clinical Pathology
- Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- General Surgery
- Hematological Pathology
- Internal Medicine
- Medical Microbiology
- Neurology
- Neurology - Pediatric
- Neurosurgery
- Nuclear Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
- Pediatrics

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Plastic Surgery
Psychiatry
Public Health and Preventive Medicine including Family Medicine
Radiation Oncology
Urology

II. HOW DOES ONE ENTER RESIDENCY TRAINING?

Application for residency positions is made through the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS). The MD Program at the University of Alberta provides career counselling to enable students to make informed choices when applying for postgraduate programs during their final year of medical school.

For further information on our residency programs please visit our [website](#).