

Internationally Educated Professionals in Canada

This chart compares the path to practice in Canada for internationally educated professionals in 4 major health care professions.

	Optometry	Medicine	Dentistry	Pharmacy
Minimum professional education accepted	4 year professional program or 3 year professional program plus a formal pre-registration year ¹	130 credit hours with a minimum course length of 36 months ²	4 year professional program	Pharmacy degree
Additional undergraduate or work experience required prior to applying	3 yr undergrad or 3 yr work experience as a licensed optometrist	None	None	None
Recognized Educational Institutions	Optometry schools recognized by World Council of Optometry which offer minimum 4 yr program or Medical schools listed in the FAIMER International Medical Education Directory or WHO Medical Directory	Medical schools listed in the FAIMER International Medical Education Directory ³ or WHO Medical Directory	List of over 400 schools on NDEB site ⁴	Undergraduate pharmacy degree
Recognized degrees	Bachelor of Optometry(BSc Optom) Doctor of Optometry(OD) MBBS plus 3 yr ophthalmology residency ⁵ MD plus 3 yr ophthalmology residency	Bachelor of Medicine(MBBS) Doctor of Medicine(MD)	Bachelor of Dental Surgery(BDS) Doctor of Dental Surgery(DDS)	Pharmacy degree
Credential	As currently agreed to by CORA ,	Medical Council of Canada—	National Dental Examining	Pharmacy Examining Board

¹ formal clinical placement in hospital or private practice with specific clinical milestones to be met

² for credentialing. Individual provinces may have different requirements

³ <https://imed.faimer.org>

⁴ <https://ndeb-na.brighttrac.com/>

⁵ As per College of Optometrists of Ontario policy prior to the IOBP, the program will consider internationally educated ophthalmologists under certain circumstances

assessment agency	UWSO verifies credentials and documents following policy of UW registrar's office	national examining body verifies copy of medical degree	Board verifies copy of degree	verifies copy of degree
Evaluating exam/prior learning assessment	<i>CEO Prior Learning Assessment</i> --280 MCQ to assess optometric knowledge, ocular therapeutics and clinical judgment <i>UWSO</i> -half day clinical skill assessment following the CSAO format	MCEE Medical Council Evaluating Exam --175 MCQ --offered in 500 sites in 70 countries	NDEB Evaluating Exam --300 MCQ to assess fundamental knowledge and clinical judgment -- a clinical skills assessment	PEBC Evaluating Exam --300 MCQ to assess knowledge in areas of current pharmaceutical education in Canada and clinical skills OSCE - once documents assessed favorably candidates have up to 5 years to pass exam
Evaluating Exam/PLA validity period	2 years	Infinitely valid		Infinitely valid
Rewrites allowed	One rewrite	No limit ⁶	One rewrite	Three rewrites
Bridging Program	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Bridging Program Mandatory	Yes	No—if successful on MCEE may move to directly write Qualifying Exams(MCQE 1/2)	No—if successful on evaluating exam may move to directly write NDEB Qualifying Exams	No—if successful on evaluating exam may request exemption from Bridging Program and move directly to write Qualifying Exams --may request exemption from practical studentships
Minimum Language Requirements for Bridging Program or licensure	CLBPT -minimum overall avg of 8.0 IELTS Academic -minimum overall avg of 7.5 with no score lower than 7.0 CanTEST -minimum overall avg of 4.5 with no score lower than 4.0 ⁷	No specifics published	IELTS Academic – minimum overall of 6.5 with no score lower than 6.0	IELTS Academic -minimum overall of 7.0 with no score lower than 6.0 Can TEST -minimum overall avg of 4.5 with no score lower than 4.0

⁶ http://www.img-canada.ca/en/licensure_overview/mccee.html

⁷ Candidates must obtain minimum language requirements prior to taking the PLA/many professions only require it for qualifying examinations or licensure

<p>Qualifying Exam/National Board Examination</p>	<p>CSAO- 7 sections 3 Written – 600 MCQ 4 hr .clinical skill sessions— procedure based(not OSCE)</p>	<p>MCQE1 – 196 MCQ and 4 hours of short answer questions MCQE2 OSCE⁸ – 3 hours All Canadian medical graduates must complete a 2 yr post-graduate residency after their qualifying examinations. IMGs may have to complete a residency from 6 mo to 2 yr depending on specialty Office of the Fairness Commissioner is recommending medicine seek alternatives to get IMGs into practice sooner⁹</p>	<p>NDEB Part 1 – 300 MCQ NDEB Part 2 – OSCE</p>	<p>PQE Part 1 – 300 MCQ PQE Part 2 OSCE</p>
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⁸ OSCE – Objective Structured Clinical Examination

⁹ Clearing the Path: Recommendations for Action in Ontario’s Professional Licensing System pg 4