

REGISTRATION POLICY

Eligibility in the Provisional Class: RCPSC Rulings Acceptable to the Registration Committee

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clearly articulate which Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) routes are deemed acceptable to the Registration Committee under section 2-16(1)(b) of the College Bylaws.

Background

Section 2-16(1)(b)(iii) of the College Bylaws under the *Health Professions Act* states that an applicant must

- (iii) have completed postgraduate training and obtained a completion of training certificate and certification in the applicant's specialty from an international accrediting body where such training meets the criteria for a RCPSC ruling to access RCPSC certification through examinations, acceptable to the registration committee...

Policy

Approved-jurisdiction route

The approved-jurisdiction route (AJR) is available to international medical graduates (IMGs) who have completed training outside of Canada and the United States of America in one of [29 jurisdictions](#) approved by the RCPSC. The RCPSC will then assess whether a candidate's training is substantially equivalent to Canadian training. If the training is deemed comparable and acceptable, the candidate will receive an eligibility ruling to access the certification examination in their specialty. Not all specialties are approved by the RCPSC in all jurisdictions.

Practice eligibility route

The practice eligibility route is a path available for physicians who completed their postgraduate training outside of Canada and who have completed three years of practice in their specialty (in any jurisdiction).

The RCPSC conducts a review of a specialist physician's practice and training to determine its equivalence to Canadian training. Where the RCPSC finds the physician's training acceptable,

the RCPSC issues a letter that grants the specialist physician access to the examinations. If the physician is successful on the RCPSC examinations, they will be provided with a letter from the RCPSC indicating the same. Once the physician provides the RCPSC ruling, satisfactory to the College, that confirms that the RCPSC has accepted their training and that the physician has passed the RCPSC examination, the physician can apply for eligibility for registration and licensure under section 2-16(1)(b)(iii) of the College Bylaws and the general requirements under the *Health Professions Act*.

If found eligible for registration and licensure with this College, the physician will be eligible to apply for RCPSC certification after two years of practice in Canada as an independent specialist.

For more information regarding eligibility for this route, please visit the RCPSC's [website](#).

Subspecialist Examination Affiliate Program

The RCPSC Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (SEAP) is available to internationally trained physicians registered with a postgraduate office in an accredited RCPSC subspecialty training program who are not RCPSC certified in a primary specialty. SEAP provides an approved mechanism for non-RCPSC, internationally trained subspecialists practising in Canada to take a Royal College subspecialty examination and join the Royal College as a Subspecialist Affiliate.

Subspecialist Affiliates have successfully completed a Royal College subspecialty examination through SEAP, without completing the primary specialty examination. Subspecialist Affiliates are not Royal College certified nor are they eligible for fellowship.

The RCPSC conducts a review of a specialist physician's practice and training to determine its equivalence to Canadian training. Where the RCPSC finds the physician's training acceptable, the RCPSC issues a letter that grants the specialist physician access to the subspecialty examination.

Physicians with RCPSC access to the subspecialty examination via SEAP who are found eligible for registration and licensure in the provisional - specialty class will be restricted to practise in their subspecialty only and are required to sign a letter of commitment.

For more information regarding eligibility for this route, please visit the RCPSC's [website](#).

FMRAC-RCPSC practice-ready assessment route

The FMRAC-RCPSC practice-ready assessment (PRA) route, also known as the FMRAC-RCPSC route to certification, was initially developed by the RCPSC in September 2006. It was created to recognize certain individuals who, despite their medical education and postgraduate training programs, would be assets to practise medicine in BC or Canada. It was intended for IMGs with certification from an international jurisdiction who intended to live and practise in Canada following RCPSC certification.

At the time, registration and licensure was granted in the educational - postgraduate (fellow) class to allow the applicant to complete the PRA. Following completion of the PRA satisfactory to the RCPSC, the RCPSC granted eligibility to the registrant to sit the RCPSC certification examination. At that time, the registrant may have been eligible for registration in the provisional class, subject to meeting registration requirements including a ruling from the RCPSC granting the registrant access to the examinations in their specialty.

As of July 17, 2015, the Registration Committee no longer accepts the FMRAC-RCSPC PRA for the following reasons:

- UBC does not have the capacity or funding to oversee and complete assessments associated with the FMRAC-RCSPC PRA process nor to sign off on the final in-training evaluation report (FITER) for the assessee, as is required by the RCPSC.
- Traditionally, participants in the FMRAC-RCSPC PRA process were registered in the educational - postgraduate (fellow) class. However, the purpose of the educational - postgraduate (fellow) class is to provide training to IMG physicians to take back to their countries of origin. UBC policy states that training in the educational - postgraduate (fellow) class cannot be regarded as RCPSC-accredited postgraduate training (and cannot be used towards RCPSC certification).

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