

Policy on:

The Practice Eligibility Route (PER) for Specialties

1. Objective & Scope

The purpose of the Practice Eligibility Route (PER) is to remove barriers for those specialists practicing in Canada or abroad who are seeking primary specialty certification with the Royal College, but who did not complete their training in a Royal College-accredited residency program or the United States. The PER provides an opportunity for specialists to have their credentials assessed and compared to Royal College residency graduate standards and, subsequently, the ability to challenge the Royal College specialty examination.

Successful application to the PER does not guarantee Royal College certification, rather it provides access to the Royal College examination which must be successfully completed (all components) in addition to meeting the outlined practice requirements before the candidate is eligible for certification.

2. Definitions and Acronyms

Continuous practice location	A designated site in Canada where the candidate has been engaged in uninterrupted supervised clinical practice, ensuring ongoing assessment of their practice without disruption.
Fellowship	Unaccredited postgraduate clinical or research based medical training that compliments specialty and subspecialty training, and is usually narrow in scope of practice.
International Medical Graduate	A physician who completed post-graduate training in a jurisdiction outside of Canada and the United States.
MRA	Medical regulatory authority: The MRAs are the provincial and territorial bodies responsible for granting physicians a license to practice within their jurisdiction.
MSF	Multisource feedback.
PER	Practice Eligibility Route: the primary route to certification for International Medical Graduates.
PGME	Post graduate medical education.
Physicians Apply	A service used by the Royal College to verify authenticity of documents.
Royal College	The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada is the national professional association that oversees the medical education of specialists in Canada. In its mandate articulated by

**Royal College
Credentials Unit**

a Royal Charter in 1929, it is entrusted with a key role in the oversight of the system of specialty medicine in Canada.

The unit of the Royal College responsible for evaluating and processing applications for exam eligibility received from specialists and trainees.

STRs

Specialty training requirements.

3. Policy

3.1. Overview of the Procedure for Submission of a PER Application:

The Practice Eligibility Route is available to internationally trained applicants, who have training equivalent to Royal College standards. Substantial training equivalence is required to be eligible for the examination. Success at examination and two (2) years of time in practice are required to become certified.

A license to practice in Canada is not required to initiate a PER application but will be required to complete the time in practice in Canada requirement to confer certification. Applicants currently without a license to practice in Canada may access the exam component(s) of their discipline's examination after being granted eligibility. Success at the examination may be considered by the MRAs in the licensure application process. The Royal College does not have the authority to issue licenses to practice in Canada and cannot guarantee that success at an exam component will lead to being conferred a license by a MRA.

The applicant must ensure they are able to submit all the documents listed in the application to be evaluated by the Credentials Unit in a timely fashion. An application must be submitted along with the required fee. The review of the applicant's credentials will result in a determination of whether the applicant's training is sufficient to receive Royal College exam eligibility.

Preliminary applications are found on the Royal College online e-booking system.

3.2. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Practice Eligibility Route (PER) to certification, applicants must demonstrate the following:

- 3.2.1.** Medical specialty training that was completed outside Canada and the United States.
- 3.2.2.** Applicant not certified in a Royal College primary specialty.
- 3.2.3.** Time in training that is substantially equivalent to Royal College training standards.

3.3. Credentials Review

The Royal College requires proof that the applicant has completed training which is substantially equivalent to the specialty training requirements (STRs) and/or required training experiences (RTEs) in the respective specialty. The applicant must be recognized as a specialist in the jurisdiction of training and must provide satisfactory evidence of completion of all postgraduate medical education (PGME) training in the jurisdiction in which training occurred.

- 3.3.1. The Credentials Unit requires details of the applicant's training (to be compared with Royal College's specialty training requirements (STRs) and/or required training experiences (RTEs) in the respective specialty).
- 3.3.2. All training documentation must be source verified through Physicians Apply.
- 3.3.3. Applicants who are assessed by the Credentials Unit and have met the training requirements will be issued a ruling letter granting eligibility to the applicable Royal College specialty examination(s).
- 3.3.4. All PER candidates are subject to the policies and procedures for ruling letters and examination outlined in sections V and VI of the Royal College *Policies and Procedures for Certification and Fellowship*.

3.4. Time in Practice in Canada Requirement:

It is the responsibility of the candidate to obtain a license from the appropriate MRA to practice and complete a minimum two (2) years of supervised practice in a continuous practice location in Canada. The two (2) years of supervised practice in a continuous location may be completed in any jurisdiction in Canada.

- 3.4.1. Documentation must demonstrate the candidate's professional competence and time dedication to the primary specialty for the duration of the two (2) years being assessed for time in practice, as detailed in Section 3.5 and 3.6 of this policy.
- 3.4.2. Candidates already in Canada and in supervised practice at the time of a PER application may have already met the minimum time in practice requirement. If the candidate already has a total of two (2) years of supervised practice in Canada, they may immediately apply for an assessment of practice.
- 3.4.3. The Royal College will assess time in practice in Canada that was completed no earlier than five (5) years prior to the candidate's application for assessment of training, recognizing training experiences that begun 1/5/2020 and onwards.

3.5. Assessment of Time in Practice:

- 3.5.1. Candidates must provide a letter of attestation from a supervisor that is a Fellow of the Royal College, attesting to:
 - The candidate's professional competencies in the relevant primary specialty.
 - A significant time dedication of 50% of their practice or greater in the relevant primary specialty, in a continuous practice location in Canada, for the entirety of the candidate's time in practice.
- 3.5.2. Candidates must also inform the College to initiate the assessment of their time in practice either upon initiation or completion of their year(s) of supervised practice in a continuous practice location in Canada. Approval of an assessment of practice is necessary for certification. Candidates' time in practice will also be assessed using multisource feedback surveys:
- 3.5.3. Multisource feedback (MSF) survey: Feedback on the professional competencies relating to the CanMEDS roles is gathered and then benchmarked against scores from similar practices. This process allows the candidate to reflect on their performance across the range of CanMEDS roles and to identify their areas of strength and areas for growth.

3.6. Time in Practice Requirements for Candidates with Fellowship Experiences:

3.6.1. Assessment of Time in Fellowship

One (1) year of fellowship training under the auspices of a Canadian PGME office, may be counted towards the two (2) year time in practice requirement in Canada, provided that the PGME Program Director/Postgraduate Dean provides attestation that the generalist competencies have been met.

3.6.1.1. Candidates must provide a letter of attestation from their PGME Program Director/Postgraduate Dean outlining the clinical responsibilities and description of the fellowship which must include the percentage of time dedicated to the specialty.

3.6.1.2. Documentation must demonstrate that the candidate has made a significant dedication of 50% of their fellowship practice or greater in the relevant primary specialty for the duration of the training year being assessed for time in practice.

3.6.1.3. Fellowship experiences will be counted as an exception to the requirement to practice in a continuous practice location for two (2) years. Candidates with fellowship experiences must provide attestation to one (1) year of fellowship in Canada, and one (1) year in a continuous practice location in Canada under supervision.

3.6.2. Assessment of Time in a Continuous Practice Location in Canada

3.6.2.1. Candidates must provide a letter of attestation from a supervisor that is a Fellow of the Royal College, attesting to:

- The candidate's professional competencies in the relevant primary specialty.
- A significant time dedication of 50% of their practice or greater in the relevant primary specialty, in a continuous practice location in Canada, for the entirety of the candidate's time in practice.

3.6.2.2. Candidates must inform the College to initiate the assessment of their time in practice either upon initiation or completion of their year(s) of supervised practice in a continuous practice location in Canada. Approval of an assessment of practice is necessary for certification. Candidates' time in practice will also be assessed using multisource feedback surveys:

3.6.2.2.1. Multisource feedback (MSF) survey: Feedback on the professional competencies relating to the CanMEDS roles is gathered and then benchmarked against scores from similar practices. This process allows the candidate to reflect on their performance across the range of CanMEDS roles and to identify their areas of strength and areas for growth.

3.6.3. The Royal College will assess time in fellowship that was completed no earlier than five (5) years prior to the candidate's application for assessment of training, recognizing training experiences that begun on June 21, 2019, and onwards.

3.6.4. Time in fellowship must only be counted towards the candidate's time in practice requirement; it cannot also count towards training requirements.

3.6.5. Assessment of whether a fellowship meets the criteria above will be at the discretion of the Royal College.

3.7. Royal College Certification

Candidates who have met all the PER requirements will be eligible for certification by the Royal College, including:

- 3.7.1.** A successful credentials review verifying training equivalence to Canadian programs supported by source verification of documents;
- 3.7.2.** Completion of all specialty specific requirements for PER;
- 3.7.3.** Two (2) years of practice in a continuous practice location in Canada supported by a successful assessment of practice;
- 3.7.4.** Success at all required examination component(s).

The Royal College Membership Unit will issue a letter of certification when all requirements have been met.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1. Applicant

The applicant is responsible for compiling all necessary documents to submit a complete application and providing the required information to the Royal College at all stages of the process. Following a successful credentials review, the applicant will receive eligibility to the Royal College examination and will be responsible for registering and completing the examination.

All PER applicants will remain subject to the policies and procedures of the Royal College, as applicable, including those listed in section 5 of this policy. This includes examination eligibility and renewal policies.

4.2. Royal College Credentials Unit

The Credentials Unit receives applications and renders decisions on behalf of the Royal College. The Credentials Unit is responsible for reviewing credentialing documents and determining equivalency to Canadian training programs. The Credentials Unit issues ruling letters regarding exam eligibility.

4.3. Medical Regulatory Authority (a Canadian licensing body)

For an applicant to meet the entirety of the PER requirements, the physician will need to complete a minimum of two (2) years of practice in a continuous practice location in Canada. The applicant will have to apply to a MRA to receive licensure and the ability to practice in Canada. A list of MRAs can be found on the [Royal College website](#).

4.4. Assessment Committee

The Assessment Committee makes decisions regarding the PER policy.

5. References

[*Policies and Procedures for Certification and Fellowship*](#)
[*Policy on Formal Review of Examinations*](#)

6. Contact(s)

For information or clarification, please contact:

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
Office of Standards and Assessment, Credentials unit
774 Echo Drive
Ottawa ON K1S 5N8
Telephone (toll-free): 1-800-668-3740
Credentials@royalcollege.ca

7. Appendices

This policy has no appendices.

8. Policy record

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