ROYAL COLLEGE
OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF CANADA
COLLÈGE ROYAL
DES MÉDECINS ET CHIRURGIENS DU CANADA

Practice Eligibility Route (PER)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA TO APPLY THROUGH THE PER?

Those who wish to apply through the PER must have completed their training outside Canada, the United States, and the Royal College approved jurisdictions, in a program that is not accredited by the Royal College. They must also be trained in a Royal College recognized primary specialty and training should be substantially equivalent to that of the Royal College.

HOW DO I APPLY TO THE PER?

Applications are submitted through the Royal College's eBooking platform. Instructions on how to apply can be found on the Royal College website.

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY FOR ASSESSMENT OF TRAINING?

Applications are accepted year-round; however, each exam session has a specific deadline to apply:

- Spring exams: April 30th the year before you write the exam
- Fall exams: August 31st the year before you write the exam

Applicants should review the exam schedule found on the Royal College website to determine the season of their written exam (Spring/Fall). If applications received after the deadline for the upcoming exam are not processed in time to register for the exam, they may be pushed to the following exam year.

Applications are processed according to the following priority levels:

- **Priority Level 1:** applies to in-season applications submitted within the primary intake period (e.g., fall or spring). For example, a spring 2026 application submitted before the April 30th, 2025, deadline would receive Priority Level 1 processing, as the Credentials team focuses on evaluating applications for the upcoming term.
- **Priority Level 2:** applies to off-season applications, which are submitted outside peak intake periods (e.g., fall or spring). For instance, a fall 2026 application submitted in March 2025 would be processed at Priority Level 2, as the Credentials team prioritizes spring 2026 applications until the April 30, 2025, deadline.

WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO SUBMIT WITH MY APPLICATION?

Applications cannot be processed if all listed documents are not submitted. Applicants 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.

Applicants must submit the following documents to the Royal College with their application:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Copy of your medical degree
- Documentation of completion of internship training, if applicable to the specialty
- Document signed by the applicants Program Director, Supervisor, or training institution, on letterhead, attesting to the periods of training (including the start and end date of training)
- Details of training rotations/experiences, specifying the time (in months) spent in different areas of the specialty.
- Letter of attestation of competence from the applicants Program Director/Supervisor which outlines the applicant's competencies in relation to the CanMEDS roles.

Applicants must submit the following documents to Physicians Apply for source verification:

- Copy of medical degree
- Internship document, if applicable
- Documentation of postgraduate training (written confirmation from Program Director, Supervisor, or training institution, on letterhead, indicating start and finish dates of training; including certificate confirming completion of specialty training)

HOW IS TRAINING ASSESSED?

Details of the training completed are compared with the Royal College's training standards and/or training experiences in the primary specialty.

HOW LONG DOES AN ASSESSMENT OF TRAINING TAKE?

Assessment of a complete application can take 3-6 months to process. When completed, a ruling letter will be sent via email.

HOW MANY ATTEMPTS ARE PROVIDED IF I AM DEEMED ELIGIBLE FOR THE EXAM?

Exams typically consist of a written component and/or an applied component. Examination formats vary by specialty and can be found on the Royal College website. You are allowed a maximum of four (4) attempts per exam component within the five (5) year eligibility period. Your eligibility letter specifies the five (5) years you can attempt the Royal College exams. Candidates must complete all required examination components for their specialty within five (5) years of being granted eligibility.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM DEEMED INELIGIBLE FOR THE EXAM?

If your application is unsuccessful, our support team will explain the reason in your ruling letter, indicating the additional residency training required to meet the Royal College's specialty-specific training requirements/training experiences. Assessment fees submitted with an application are non-refundable.

WHAT IS THE APPEAL PROCESS IF DEEMED INELIGIBLE FOR THE EXAM?

A reconsideration of a ruling on examination eligibility may be initiated at the request of the applicant or by the Executive Director, Standards and Assessment of the Royal College, or a delegate, if substantive new information about an applicant's credentials or training is received or if there was an error in the administration of policy in an applicant's assessment of training. An example of substantive new information about an applicant would be that the applicant completed two (2) years in a Canadian accredited program in their specialty under the supervision of a Program Director. The decision of the Executive Director, Standards and Assessment, or their delegate, shall be final and is not subject to appeal.

HOW MANY TIMES PER YEAR DO THE EXAMS TAKE PLACE?

Exams are on fixed dates and take place annually. For specialties that have more than one examination component, each component will be offered once during an examination year. For example, if a discipline has a written exam component and an applied exam component, each component will be offered only once during an exam year.

HOW MUCH TIME IN PRACTICE IS REQUIRED?

For certification, besides passing the Royal College specialty exam, a minimum of two (2) years of supervised practice in a continuous practice location in Canada is required within the primary discipline for which you have applied. These two (2) years must be the equivalent of two (2) full-time years in practice. A minimum of 50% of practice must be spent practicing in the primary discipline to fulfil the time in practice requirement.

In some specific cases, one (1) year spent in clinical fellowship training in Canada may be counted toward the two (2) year practice requirement if the fellowship had significant overlap with the primary specialty. Candidates must spend 50% of their year in fellowship, or greater, training in the specialty for which they applied. Time in fellowship training can only be counted towards time in practice requirements and cannot be counted towards the training requirements.

Applicants already in Canada and in practice at the time of PER application may have already met the minimum time in practice requirement. If the applicant already has a total of two (2) years of practice in Canada, they may immediately apply for an assessment of practice.

HOW IS AN ASSESSMENT OF PRACTICE COMPLETED?

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

Candidates are also required to submit their letter of employment, a copy of their license, and a letter from their supervisor attesting to their clinical competence and time dedication in the specialty.

Required time in training by specialty

Please note that time in training which is equivalent to that of the Royal College does not automatically confer eligibility to the exam. An assessment must be completed to determine substantial equivalence of training and eligibility.

Specialty	Required time in training
Anesthesiology	5 years (1 of which is basic clinical training)
Cardiac Surgery	6 years
Dermatology	5 years (2 of which are basic clinical training)
Diagnostic and Clinical Pathology	5 years (1 of which is basic clinical training)
Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology	5 years (1 of which is basic clinical training)
Diagnostic Radiology	5 years (1 of which is basic clinical training)
Emergency Medicine	5 years
General Surgery	5 years
Hematological Pathology	4 years
Internal Medicine	4 years
Medical Genetics and Genomics	5 years (2 of which are basic clinical training)
Medical Microbiology	5 years (1 of which is basic clinical training)
Neurology (adult and pediatric)	5 years
Neuropathology	5 years (1 of which is basic clinical training)
Neurosurgery	6 years
Nuclear Medicine	5 years
Obstetrics and Gynecology	5 years (1 of which is basic clinical training)
Ophthalmology	5 years (1 of which is basic clinical training)
Orthopedic Surgery	5 years
Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery	5 years
Pediatrics	4 years
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	5 years (1 of which is basic clinical training)
Plastic Surgery	5 years
Psychiatry	5 years (1 of which is basic clinical training)
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	5 years (1 of which is basic clinical training)
Radiation Oncology	5 years (1 of which is basic clinical training)
Urology	5 years
Vascular Surgery	5 years