

PGME Guidelines for accepting Internationally (Visa) Sponsored Trainees

POSTGRADUATE TRAINING AGREEMENTS

Postgraduate Medical Education currently holds seven legally contracted training agreements between the University of Manitoba, Max Rady College of Medicine, and sponsoring agencies from the following countries:

- Saudi Arabian Cultural Bureau
- Kuwait Bureau
- Saudi Aramco
- Oman
- United Arab Emirates
- State of Qatar

ELIGIBILITY OF TRAINEES

To be eligible to enroll in the Training Program, trainees must provide evidence that they:

- are eligible and registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba or equivalent, for the purposes of the Training Program.
- have obtained appropriate immigration status.
- are sponsored by the Bureau/Agency.
- meet all other qualifications and requirements of the Training Program established by the University.
- meet all the qualifications and requirements of the specific program of study.
- meet all the qualifications and requirements of the health authority, hospital, clinic, or placement site(s) in which clinical training will occur (the “Placement Site”).
- consent to the sharing of their personal information related to their participation in the Training Program with and between the University, the Placement Site and the Bureau.
- execute an undertaking to return to their Home Country upon completion of the Training Program and subsequent certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or the College of Family Physicians of Canada.
- agree and acknowledge that their participation in the Training Program is subject to the terms of the Agreement with the University of Manitoba Max Rady College of Medicine.

RIGHTS & OBLIGATIONS OF TRAINEES

The trainees shall be considered students at the University, and have all the same rights, privileges and obligations as any other student enrolled in postgraduate medical education (residency) at the University, subject to the qualifications set out in the agreement with the University of Manitoba, Max Rady College of Medicine.

The University of Manitoba PGME training programs are accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the College of Family Physicians of Canada or equivalent. Upon successful

completion of the Training Program, trainees will be eligible to apply for certification by the appropriate body.

Although Internationally (Visa) Sponsored Trainees are not members of PARIM they are subject to the same obligations as PARIM members to the University of Manitoba, Shared Health, CPSM, and must comply with all other reasonable requirements of the College and/or the Shared Health related to their position (including requirements related to the College's agreement with your sponsoring organization).

REPORTING

Where applicable, each trainee and the sponsor shall receive, at least twice each year, a report on the status and performance of the trainee. The reports shall be in a form similar to that used by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the College of Family Physicians of Canada or equivalent.

The University shall notify the sponsor, in a timely manner, if it becomes aware of any matters of serious concern, including academic, professional, or personal issues, which may impact the success of a trainee in the Training Program. Where appropriate, the University will use reasonable efforts to work with the trainee and the sponsor to resolve any difficulties.

SPONSORSHIP

The sponsor, during the period of the trainee's enrollment in the Training Program, and for up to a period of six (6) months thereafter, will provide financial support (the "Financial Support") directly to the trainee adequate to cover:

- a. reasonable living expenses, including accommodation, food allowance, and personal expenses.
- b. medical insurance (external plan).
- c. reasonable ancillary educational expenses, such as textbooks, conference fees (as these costs are not covered by the training fee)
- d. professional fees; and
- e. professional liability insurance.

The financial support is provided to trainees, in part, through a monthly stipend directly from the embassy except for the Saudi Arabian trainees. The Saudi Bureau sends the annual stipend to the University for each Saudi Arabian trainee participating in the Training Program and the University distributes the monthly stipend.

For clarity, the sponsorship of the Bureau is intended to cover the direct and indirect costs of the trainee's participation in the Training Program. Trainees will not be eligible for employment as residents by the University or Placement Sites, under the PARIM collective agreement or otherwise.

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS WITH PROGRAM

Once overhead is recovered by the University and the sponsored trainee's salary budget (foreign trustee payment) is established, the remaining funds are split 50/50 with the departments that have Internationally (Visa) Sponsored Trainees.

The PGME office will complete sponsored trainee invoicing and arrange for allocation to Departments by September 30th annually.

Funding must be used to support resident education and resident research. Such expenses could include, but not limited to, mandatory courses, resident travel, in-training examinations, special equipment for teaching and learning purposes, education sessions such as visiting professors, Rounds, and electronic equipment.

- If the resident is on an LOA, probation, or requires an extension of training, the PGME will contact the sponsor to ensure the financial support is place.
- Residents/fellows abide by the by-laws, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and practices of the University of Manitoba and Shared Health

APPLICATION AND SELECTION

Programs are required to notify the PGME office of their interest in accepting residency and fellowship applications by March 8th, including opening, and closing dates for applications. Commencing around the beginning of March of every year, application packages start arriving in the PGME office from the sponsoring agencies for the consideration of training spots for the following academic year. Applications are then collated and distributed to the programs by the first week of September. Any application received after the distribution date is not guaranteed to be forwarded to the program unless specifically requested. Consideration of acceptance of Internationally VISA sponsored residents must be approved by the Associate Dean, PGME & ARET Committee. Programs should not consider applications that have not been routed through the PGME Office, or outside of this process, as candidate credibility and/or sponsorship cannot be guaranteed.

Application packages sent by the sponsoring agency to the PGME Office for Residency and Subspecialty Residency programs include the following:

1. A letter from the sponsoring agency that confirms full financial support for the duration of the Fellowship program.
2. An up-to-date curriculum vitae which includes the applicant's date of birth, citizenship, and e-mail address
3. A notarized copy of the medical degree (with English translation, where applicable)
4. A notarized copy of the specialty certification (with English translation, where applicable)
5. Three letters of reference on letterhead, signed and dated within two years of the date of application.
6. **Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination**
IMGs must have written and passed the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Part 1(MCCQE1), if applicable.
7. **Language Proficiency**
English is the language of study at the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, Max Rady College of Medicine, and the University of Manitoba. All applicants whose first language is not English must submit proof of English language proficiency with application.
8. **Application packages sent by the sponsoring agency to the PGME Office for PGME Clinical Fellowships and AFC Diploma programs include the following:**

1. A letter from the sponsoring agency that confirms full financial support for the duration of the Fellowship program.
2. An up-to-date curriculum vitae which includes the applicant's date of birth, citizenship, and e-mail address
3. A notarized copy of the medical degree (with English translation, where applicable)
4. A notarized copy of the specialty certification (with English translation, where applicable)
5. Three letters of reference on letterhead, signed and dated within two years of the date of application.
6. Language Proficiency
English is the language of study at the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, Max Rady College of Medicine, and the University of Manitoba. All applicants whose first language is not English must submit proof of English language proficiency with application.

Interview Process

After the program has reviewed the applications and selected suitable candidates for interview programs are responsible for contacting the embassy (with a copy to sponsoredpgme@umanitoba.ca) in writing, two letters (copies of example letters attached).

1. Advising the Embassy of the selected applicants for interviews.
2. Advising the Embassy of the residents not selected for interviews

Selection criteria for interview at the program level should involve the Program Director, selected faculty (which should include members of the Residency Program Committee), senior/chief resident/s, and section head/department head. A formal evaluative ranking system should be used in the screening process, and ultimately reviewed at a Residency Training Committee meeting prior to making a final selection.

Post-Interview Process

After the interviews, the Program is required to contact the applicant. (Please use the acceptable language below provided by the U of M legal office).

Dear _____

The INSERT DEPARTMENT NAME at the University of Manitoba is pleased to inform you that we have requested the PGME Office of the Max Rady College of Medicine to commence its verification process with respect to your application in INSERT PROGRAM NAME. The tentative start date of the program is INSERT DATE, ending INSERT END DATE. Please reply to this email by (INSERT A DUE DATE) if you are Interested/no longer interested in this position.

Once the PGME Office verifies that ALL requirements have been met and has approved your application, a formal Letter of Offer will be sent to you by the PGME Office. Signing your acceptance of the Letter of Offer and returning it to the PGME Office will begin the registration process for the position.

The Residency/Fellowship Program is required to notify the PGME Office (sponsoredpgme@umanitoba.ca) with the name, copies of the email communication, and any updated application materials for final review and approval by the ARET Committee and Associate Dean, PGME.

To maintain a fair and consistent process, there are common national dates to contact successful visa-sponsored applicants. .

The PGME Deans have agreed to the following principles and dates:

2026 R1 Match

All R1 entry residency programs are to notify applicants of their interest in accepting them into their program on, **October 14, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. noon, EST**, with a deadline to accept or decline by **October 17, 2025, by 12:00 p.m. noon, EST**. Please note that following the deadline to accept/decline, programs can make offers to applicants who have not already accepted an offer from another program.

2026 Spring Subspecialty Residency Match (SSRM), Fall Subspecialty Residency Match (FSRM), and Family Medicine Enhanced Skills (FM/ES) Match Timelines

All residency programs participating in the 2026 CaRMS, SSRM, FSRM, and FM-ES will follow the match deadline listed in CaRMS (as listed below).

Match	(i.e. "Match Day")	Deadline (by Trainee)
SSRM Fall 2026	Monday, October 15, 2025, 12:00 p.m. noon, EST	Monday, October 20, 2025, 12:00 p.m. noon, EST
FSRM 2026	Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 12:00 p.m. noon, EST	Monday, October 27, 2025, 12:00 p.m. noon, EST
FM/ES 2026	Thursday, December 11, 2025, 12:00 p.m. noon, EST	Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 12:00 p.m. noon, EST

Please note that dates may change year to year; the PGME office will communicate any changes of dates to the programs well in advance.

Please note that Visa Sponsored trainees require approximately 6 months to obtain appropriate work permit documentation, therefore, please provide the PGME Office with the applicable documentation/information no later than the offer accepted dates noted above.

Successful Candidate

The PGME Office will proceed with:

- Confirming sponsorship coverage with the Embassy/Bureau.
- Once confirmation of sponsorship coverage has been received from the Embassy/Bureau, the PGME Office will:
 - Extend a formal Letter of Offer to the successful candidate and the sponsor.

- Provide successful applicants with immigration documentation to enable them to apply for the appropriate work permit from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.
Please note: Any written documentation to Canada Immigration or other Governing Bodies requesting changes to this information must be corresponded by the Postgraduate Medical Education Office.
- Alert the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, who will mail out the appropriate international licensure application to the trainee. It is imperative to note that the trainee should complete the licensure application and return it as quickly as possible to CPSM so that they can confirm eligibility for licensure and forward the release letter for immigration purposes.
- Send the resident registration documentation and track the resident process until they arrive for the mandatory orientation, which typically starts the beginning of June.

Sponsored trainees:

- **Must** participate in the mandatory two-week IMG Orientation for new Residents/Fellows, which runs the last two weeks of June. This must be cited in the letter of acceptance so that both the resident and the sponsor are aware of this expectation of attendance prior to the commencement of residency training. Applicants with two consecutive years of training in Canada may be eligible for an exemption.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** All sessions in the orientation are mandatory; there are specific protected times allotted in the schedule (as well as evenings and weekends) for individuals to take care of personal affairs (i.e. visits to their financial institution, furniture delivery, etc.)
- Foreign residents are responsible for obtaining and paying for their own CMPA membership fees in full. The PGME Associate Dean's Office confirms resident training status directly with CMPA so that their names are included in our University of Manitoba resident listing but does not authorize supplemental payment by Shared Health for any portion of membership fees for foreign sponsored residents.
- It is the responsibility of the resident to ensure their work permit is current and the PGME office is provided with renewed work permits.

Programs are required to follow the annual renewal of trainees and completion of training.

Please refer to:

Forms and Templates - PGME Program Resources Community

https://entrada.radyfhs.umanitoba.ca/community/pgmecomresources:administration_processes/forms_and_templates#user_Sponsored_Trainees

Policies and Procedures

https://entrada.radyfhs.umanitoba.ca/community/pgmepoliciescommunit#user_Transfers

- PGME Guidelines for accepting Internationally Sponsored Visa Trainees
- PGME Alternate Route of Entry Policy
- PGME Alternate Route of Entry process maps
- PGME Internationally (Visa) Sponsored Trainee Funding Policy

Contact sponsoredpgme@umanitoba.ca with any questions

Revised
May 14, 2019
August 20, 2020
August 30, 2021
November 10, 2021
August 16, 2022
September 19, 2023
August 6, 2024
September 2, 2025