

**Credentialing and Exam Eligibility  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  
For Saudi Arabia Trainees  
August 16, 2018**

On August 7, 2018, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) announced a decision to cancel educational exchange programs between Canada and KSA, impacting over 1,000 Saudi residents and fellows in Canada.

We encourage impacted residents to contact their university's postgraduate office for initial guidance. The purpose of this document is to respond to general questions on credentials, exams and certification for impacted residents should the situation not be resolved. The information shared is based on existing policies and practices. For questions specific to individual circumstances, we recommend you reach out to the appropriate certifying college:

**College of Family Physicians of Canada**

Local Telephone Number: (905) 629-0900  
Toll-free Number: 1-800-387-6197  
Fax Number: 1-888-843-2372  
E-mail: AcademicFM@cfpc.ca

**Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada**

Telephone: (613) 730-8191  
Toll Free: 1 (800) 267-2320  
Extension: 7750  
Fax: (613) 730-3707  
E-mail: credentials@royalcollege.ca  
Website: www.royalcollege.ca

- 1. I am very close to completing the training component of my program and wondering if there is any flexibility with regards to being eligible to write the exam. If the situation is not resolved, can I apply for a waiver of training in order to pursue credentialing and assessment? What are the current allowances for waiver of training by the certifying colleges?**

[Royal College Waiver of Training Policy](#)  
[CFPC Waiver of Training Policy](#)

The Royal College maximum waivers of training guidelines for training programs are as follows:

- < 2 year program = no waiver
- 2 year = 6 weeks
- 3 year = 6 weeks
- 4/5/6 year = 3 months

The CFPC maximum waivers of training guidelines for training programs are as follows:

- Family Medicine = 4 weeks
- Enhanced = no waiver

Training outside of these allowances will be considered on an individual basis with support from both the Postgraduate Dean and the Program Director. In general, waiver requests greater than one month beyond the maximum allowances will not be considered. These policies and practices are consistent with current practice.

**2. Is applying for a leave of absence (LOA) an option for me to complete my training at a future date? How is this decision made?**

A LOA provides residents with an approved absence from their program of study for personal circumstances, allowing them to complete their program at a future date. A LOA – rather than a withdrawal – may be an option for impacted residents.

Current practices for maximum LOA by the certifying colleges are:

- Royal College = Up to 5 years
- CFPC = Up to 2 years

Leave of absences are granted at the discretion of the resident's Postgraduate Dean and Program, based on their determination as to the retention of competencies. A discussion will occur at each university regarding the suitability of LOA as an option. It is likely that universities will grant no more than a two-year LOA (meaning they will hold the position), which is within the guidelines for both certifying colleges.

**3. I have already paid for my credentialing and/or examination fee. If the situation is not resolved, will these funds be returned?**

We are hopeful for an end to the dispute and a reinstatement of education exchange with Canada. No refunds will be administered before the August 31, 2018 deadline.

All Royal College examination fees will be fully refunded for exams that are not taken. The current CFPC refund policies can be found here:

[https://www.cfpc.ca/Dates\\_Fees\\_Deadlines/](https://www.cfpc.ca/Dates_Fees_Deadlines/)

**4. Can I explore options to complete my training outside Canada (therefore not under the guidance of a postgraduate office)?**

All resident training within a Canadian jurisdiction requires credentialing sign off/attestation by a Canadian Postgrad Dean and Program Director. Therefore, training outside of the oversight of these offices would not be eligible for credentialing. This would not be a valid option for completing your training.

**5. How will I know what training I need to complete in order to pursue a program outside Canada? Can the certifying colleges and medical schools help me to close the training gap in order to apply for assessment at a future date? Will the jurisdiction where I complete my training impact my certification path?**

University medical schools can provide you with a record of your completed training so that you may potentially meet certification requirements of another country.

The Royal College

- We can assess trainees who are within their final two years of training in order to determine what is needed to complete training.

- The jurisdiction in which you complete your training can impact your future path to Royal College certification. Currently, specialty medical training completed in the United States, or one of the recognized 29 jurisdictions of the Royal College can be assessed, and if determined appropriate, can be credited for a trainee to complete their training. This would make you exam eligible.
  - <http://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/credentials-exams/exam-eligibility/assessment-imgs/jurisdiction/accepted-jurisdictions-e>

#### CFPC

- Currently, training completed in one of four jurisdictions is eligible for credit from the CFPC.
  - <https://www.cfpc.ca/RecognizedTraining/>

