

Policy on: Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (SEAP)

1. Objective & Scope

The Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (SEAP) is a mechanism by which internationally trained subspecialists who do not have access to the Royal College certification via a primary specialty can document to their regulatory authority, and their patients, their successful achievement of the Royal College subspecialty standard.

Those who pass the subspecialty exam through the SEAP will be granted Royal College attestation of their successful completion and invited to become a Royal College Subspecialist Affiliate enabling ongoing engagement with the Royal College without extending membership/Fellowship. This affiliate program does not confer Royal College membership or Fellowship status; thus, affiliates are not able to use the FRCPC or FRCSC Fellowship designation.

2. Definitions and Acronyms

This section defines key terms used in this policy.

**Maintenance of
Certification
(MOC)**

The Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program is a continuing professional development program designed by the Royal College to support the lifelong learning needs of Fellows and Health Care Professionals. Introduced in 2000, the MOC Program demonstrates the Royal College's commitment to the highest standards in specialty medicine.

Affiliate Status

Affiliate status provides a mechanism for maintaining engagement with the Royal College and participating in the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program but does not confer Royal College membership or Fellowship status.

Ruling

A ruling is a decision on examination eligibility only. Once the applicant's training has been assessed, the Royal College will make a "ruling" (decision) on examination eligibility. The Royal College retains the authority to review all applications for preliminary assessment of training on a case-by-case basis and

to determine the ruling on examination eligibility. The Royal College also retains the authority to withdraw acceptance of an applicant's credentials and/or require that an applicant complete additional training.

3. Policy

The Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (SEAP) allows the following two (2) cohorts of physicians to apply for eligibility to the Royal College certification examination to receive attestation of their successful completion and be offered the option to become a Royal College Subspecialist Affiliate.

- 3.1 Internationally trained physicians already licensed and practicing in Canada who do not have access to Royal College certification through a primary specialty.
- 3.2 Internationally trained physicians who are registered with a postgraduate office in accredited Canadian subspecialty training programs, but do not meet the prerequisite(s) for subspecialty certification (Royal College certification in a primary specialty).

3.3 Criteria:

SEAP applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for eligibility for a Royal College subspecialty examination.

- 3.3.1 Registered with a postgraduate office in accredited Canadian subspecialty training program in a Royal College recognized subspecialty.
- 3.3.2 Training completed must reflect the standards outlined in the Royal College disciplines specialty training requirements (STRs) and/or required training experiences (RTes).
- 3.3.3 Trainees must be supervised and evaluated in the same manner as a resident and have a successful Confirmation of Completion of Training (CCT) from their training program.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Credentials Unit of the Office of Standards and Assessment is responsible for the SEAP credentialing process. The Credentials Unit will also issue the ruling letter following the assessment of the physician's training.

5. References

- 5.1 List of Royal College recognized subspecialties and specialty training requirements:
<https://www.royalcollege.ca/en/standards-and-accreditation/information-by-discipline>
- 5.2 [Policies and Procedures for Certification and Fellowship](#)

5.3 [Royal College Policies for Certification in a Competence by Design Model of Residency Training](#)

5.4 Examination Registration and policies: <https://www.royalcollege.ca/en/eligibility-and-exams/exam-process/register-withdraw-defer-exams>

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

7.1 Procedures to obtain SEAP attestation

8. Policy record

Most recent resolution:	Resolution No. 2023 Resolution No. 2022-2023-12; C: 2022-09-15/16 (revision)
Approved by:	Royal College Council
Approval Date:	February 20-21, 2014
Approval path:	Assessment, CSE, Council
Effective date:	2014
Date of next review:	2023
Royal College Office:	TMCE, Assessment
Version status:	Approved
Keywords:	policy, examination, certification, affiliate status
Information security classification	Public