

Security Requirements for International PGME Trainees in Canada

Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Canadian Visa Posts Abroad could change the list of requirements any time. There will always be differences between the standard procedures in various countries.

It is our understanding that most visa trainees have to go through multiple layers of security before they make it to Canada, including:

1. The CPSO application for a postgraduate certificate requires that trainees provide evidence of the following from the medical licensing authority in every jurisdiction where they have practiced medicine, including where they have taken their postgraduate training:
 - a. that there has been no finding of, and that there is no current proceeding involving an allegation of professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacitation, or any like finding in respect to their practice of medicine and;
 - b. that there has been no finding of guilt of, and no charge pending involving an allegation of an offence relevant to their suitability to practice medicine.[1][1]
 2. The CPSO application for a postgraduate certificate requires that each trainee must authorize a criminal record check from the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC). A *Consent to Disclosure of Criminal Record Information* form must be completed in full and returned to the College by the applicant. Any omissions or discrepancies will require returning the form to the trainee for correction. The CPSO then forwards this Consent form to the CPIC and requests a criminal record check. CPIC results, either negative or positive will be returned to the CPSO by the OPP. If results are positive the College will contact the trainee for further information. Positive results will require review by the CPSO Registration Committee.[2][2]
 3. To protect the health and safety of Canadians, trainees are required to undergo a medical examination prior to their receipt of approval from the Canadian Visa Post abroad. The trainee's personal doctor cannot perform the examination. They must see a physician on Canada's list of Designated Medical Practitioners. The Designated Medical Practitioner does not tell the trainee the results of the medical examination. The Visa Post will tell the trainee in writing if there is a problem with their medical exam.[3][3]
 4. Depending on the Visa Post abroad trainees may also need to complete a criminal and security check. Security checks, also known as police certificates, are
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required to determine if applicants have a criminal record. They also help visa officers make sure applicants are not a security risk to Canada.[4][4]

5. The Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) also enforces security measures and may stop or detain trainees entering or exiting the country if they feel that the individual is a risk to Canadian citizens.[5][5]

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at m.alameddine@utoronto.ca or 416-978-8421
