

## **Medical Education in Canada – An Introduction**

### Undergraduate (Medical School)

Medical students in most Universities in Canada have a 4 year undergraduate degree prior to entering Medical school. Medical school at Dalhousie is a 4 year program. The first 2 years consist of lectures, Case- Based tutorials, Longitudinal Electives, Research in Medicine, and basic clinical skills sessions. The third year is clerkship. The fourth year consists mainly of elective and selective clinical experiences.

Students apply for post-graduate training through The Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS), which performs this service for all applicants to PGY-1 (postgraduate year 1) positions across Canada. Most new trainees start on July 1 each year.

### Postgraduate (Residency)

All accredited postgraduate medical training in Canada is university integrated. Students do not apply to hospital programs but rather to university programs. Dalhousie is the only English accredited postgraduate medical training program in the Maritime provinces and offers distributed training throughout the Maritimes.

Dalhousie Pediatrics program offers postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) to 4-6 trainees per year. It is recognized by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. All residents are employees of Nova Scotia Health. All residents are required to register as postgraduate residents of the University in order to receive accreditation for their training. As of 2021, residents must complete 10% of their training outside of Halifax Regional Municipality, within the Maritime provinces. Residents may complete 4 years of general pediatrics or 3 years of general pediatrics and one year of a subspecialty to receive their certification (provided the receiving subspecialty program can ensure they are able to complete any remaining EPAs for the resident). There is both a written exam and an OSCE that is set by the Royal College and must be passed prior to certification.

It is important to recognize that not all trainees enter the system through a Canadian medical school. Some may come from other backgrounds and some are sponsored by their home country and may come with more or different experiences. It is helpful to discuss past education and work experiences with all trainees you are supervising.

### Subspecialty training

Dalhousie Department of Pediatrics offers accredited training in some subspecialties, including Hematology/Oncology, Infectious Diseases, Neonatology, Nephrology, Cardiology and Allergy and Immunology. The Emergency group at Dalhousie also offers Pediatric Emergency medicine specialization.