
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CANADIAN PHARMACY RESIDENCIES

Who offers pharmacy residency programs in Canada?

Hospitals or hospital regions offer most pharmacy practice residency opportunities in Canada. The **Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists Web Page** has the most complete and current information about opportunities that are available. Go to: <http://www.cshp.ca> and follow the links to Residency Programs for a complete listing of accredited and accreditation-pending programs.

Who is eligible to apply for a pharmacy residency program?

Programs may have differences with regard to eligibility requirements and entrance criteria. For example, many programs consider applications only from Canadian citizens and landed immigrants legally entitled to work in Canada. Registration with the CHPRB Residency Matching Service is a requirement for application to accredited programs. Some programs require that applicants meet one or more of the following eligibility requirements:

- have graduated from a pharmacy education program accredited by the Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP)
- hold a current license to practice pharmacy, or be eligible for licensure as a pharmacist in within a set time period after starting the residency program (e.g., evidence of having successfully challenged the PEBC Qualifying Examination Parts I & II, as well as Language Competence Evaluation may be required);
- have never been expelled from a pharmacy practice residency program
- have never been denied employment at a facility of the health region in which the residency is offered
- have never been denied licensure as a pharmacist or pharmacy intern in any jurisdiction
- be a member of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists within a set time period after starting the residency
- become a registered student at a University affiliated with the residency program

How do I find out what kind of training the program offers?

Each residency program offers a different mix of experiences and preceptors. CHPRB-Accredited programs must meet Standards for teaching and program content. Think about what you want to achieve by completing a residency, then compare the programs to see which ones best fit your career path. The CSHP web page is an excellent resource to use when comparing program offerings and requirements. Other things you might want to consider when comparing programs include:

- How much choice of rotations and preceptors will you have?
- How many preceptors are there? How much experience do they have?
- What have former graduates of the residency program accomplished during their program and in the first one to five years after they completed the program?
- Can the program provide contact information for current or former residents, so you can ask questions about experiences they had while a resident in the program?
- How many residents have withdrawn from the program before completing it? What were their reasons for withdrawing?
- What was the result of the most recent CHPRB Accreditation Survey?

What about stipends, support, licensing, liability insurance and student loan deferral?

Programs may vary with regard to:

- How the program is administered (e.g., is the program run privately by a hospital or region, or is it a program of a University; do you need to pay “student fees” while in the program);
- The dollar value of, terms and conditions associated with the residency stipend;
- Other types of support available to pharmacy residents (e.g., access to computers, parking, lab coats, pagers, photocopying, library & shared or dedicated office space; casual hours of work; health benefits; amount of financial support for education leave/conference attendance; employment skills coaching; unionization; assistance with relocation expenses; and, post-residency employment incentives, etc.);
- The need to be licensed as a pharmacist during or by a set time after starting the program;
- Liability insurance coverage (e.g., at the residency home site; when you train at sites other than your home site), and;

- Student Loan payment deferral options

Make sure to ask about these issues if the information is not part of the program's application and information package. Seek current information about licensing and exam costs from the Registrar of the pharmacy regulatory authority in the province where the program is located, even if the residency program doesn't require you hold a license. This is because costs and requirements for licensing will become important if you decide to remain in that province after the residency, or if you want to seek casual hours of work to supplement your stipend. If you have not successfully challenged the PEBC Qualifying Examination, seek further information about the Qualifying Exam at <http://www.pebc.ca>

When should I start working on the application process?

You must register with the CHPRB Residency Matching Service to be considered for placement in an accredited program. Get more information about the Matching Service, including registration forms, from the CSHP website.

Accredited Canadian pharmacy residency programs that participate in the CHPRB Residency Matching Program have an application deadline of November 1 (at the latest) in the year prior to the program start date (e.g., November 1 for a program start date in May-Sept of the following year). To avoid missing application deadlines, obtain or request application forms no later than the first week of October. **Don't under-estimate the time needed to prepare a complete application!**

How do I get application forms?

Some provinces have a single application form that applies to one or more programs within that province. In other provinces, each program has its own application form. A request for an application package should be made to the Residency Program Director or the Regional Residency Coordinator as appropriate. Check the CSHP Website-Residency Programs for application form links and contact persons for programs that interest you.

What else will I need to complete the application process?

Official university transcripts must be included with most applications. Make sure to request copies of the transcripts early in the application process, especially if the application deadline is near a holiday when the Registrar's Office would be closed (e.g., Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day).

Most applications require personal, work, and academic **references**. Make sure to provide the referee with any special forms that are part of the application package. Select referees who know you well and who will comply with the program's deadline!

Many applications require that you write a short essay or statement (e.g., your reasons for application to a residency program). Many applications also require that you enclose a current *Curriculum Vitae*.

How much will it cost me to apply for a residency?

Most Canadian programs do not levy application fees to hospital pharmacy residency programs. You are responsible to pay the costs of completing and submitting your application(s). Remember to budget for:

- postage or courier charges to submit the application;
- costs of official transcripts;
- telephone or Internet Service Provider charges to contact referees or to visit the CSHP website;
- costs to photocopy or print attachments (e.g., curriculum vitae, essay, etc) to the application;
- costs for phone or on-site interviews