



Your pathway to licensure in Canada

Sample summary: internal medicine, planned from where you stand today

PREPARED FOR

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SPECIALTY

Internal Medicine

CONSULTATION

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SAMPLE

This is a sample. The client and every personal detail have been changed. A real summary runs eight to twelve pages and follows the recording of your own call.

Dr. Ribeiro, thank you for the time on September 9. This document is the written record of everything we discussed, organized so you can return to it as you move. It accompanies the session recording I am sending alongside it. The plan below is built around your specific profile: an internal medicine specialist with six years of independent practice, already a permanent resident in Ontario, with no Canadian examination yet.

THE SHORT VERSION

You are not short of training. You are short of one document and one examination. Your three years of residency plus your twelve-month fellowship reach the Royal College's four-year bar for internal medicine once they are itemised and signed by your home institution.

The plan is the Practice Eligibility Route with an Ontario licence at the end of it: the training record first, then the Royal College application and its written examination, with the hospital job search running from now. A Canadian fellowship is not the priority. Neither is any unlicensed clinical work in Ontario.

1 Where you stand today

PRIMARY TRAINING	Medical degree, Brazil, with a one-year internship inside the degree.
SPECIALTY TRAINING	Three years of internal medicine residency, followed by a twelve-month clinical fellowship in the same department. Both documented by certificate only; no transcript with rotations and dates yet.
PRACTICE	Six years as the most responsible physician on an internal medicine ward and in a hospital clinic, ending when you moved to Ontario earlier this year.
IMMIGRATION	Permanent resident. Settled.
LANGUAGE	IELTS Academic, taken before you moved. Results are generally accepted only while current, about 24 months, and the regulator asks for them at the moment a job offer converts into a licence.
EXAMINATIONS	None in Canada. No MCCQE, no Royal College examination.
GOAL	An independent licence and a hospital position in internal medicine, in Ontario if possible.

2 The lens we used: the IMGL framework

Four things must line up for any physician moving to Canada. If one fails, the plan fails. We checked each of the four before discussing any pathway, because the answer to "which pathway" is determined by the four.

- **Immigration.** Done. Permanent residence removes the question that blocks most candidates at this stage.
- **Medical licence.** The open question, and the subject of the rest of this document.
- **Gap.** Short today, and it compounds. You stopped practising when you moved. Every month from here is a month not practising, so the plan is built to move quickly rather than perfectly.
- **Language.** Covered for licensure by the IELTS Academic, but check the date. If the result is older than about 24 months when a job offer arrives, you sit it again, and that is the worst moment to find out.

ONE THING TO AVOID

Ontario has no clinical assistant or associate physician licence class. Work of that kind in Ontario is unregulated private employment, and the hours are not recognised as Canadian practice by other regulators or by any practice-ready assessment programme. It would not shorten your gap. It would not count anywhere.

3 Medical licence: your options

Certification (FRCPC) is national and does not authorise practice on its own. A licence is provincial, and Ontario is one of several provinces that licence at an earlier stage of the Practice Eligibility Route.

OPTION A

Practice Eligibility Route (PER), licensed in Ontario

The Royal College assesses your training against the internal medicine standard and grants eligibility to sit its examinations. The province licenses you at a defined stage of that process.

Training bar	Four years for internal medicine, and up to 12 months of fellowship may count toward it. Internship is not listed as acceptable, so your internship year is documented but not counted.
Your count	Three years of residency plus a twelve-month fellowship: four years, in the Royal College's units, once the record is itemised.
Ontario licence	Eligibility letter, plus the Royal College written examination, plus a job offer, yields a provisional licence valid for three years, within which the applied examination must be passed. No MCCQE on this route.
Timing	Assessment of a complete application takes 3 to 6 months. No practice time is required for exam eligibility.

This route ends where you want to end. The job offer is the gate, so the search starts now.

OPTION B

Practice-ready assessment (PRA) as a specialist, Alberta or Manitoba

A licensed physician observes you on the job and certifies readiness for independent practice. Among the English-language provinces it runs in Alberta and Manitoba, and a PRA can accept training the Royal College does not.

Alberta	Training equivalent to the Royal College standard: four years for internal medicine, internship not counted. MCCQE (or the complete USMLE) required. Alberta is also the only province that licenses a non-FRCPC specialist without a job offer, once the MCCQE and both Royal College components are passed.
Manitoba	No fixed training length and no MCCQE. The order is fixed: source-verify your documents, confirm a job opportunity in your specialty, then apply; applications expire after six months. Passing the PRA also opens the Royal College examinations.

Your six years as the most responsible physician are the asset here: the more senior you are, the easier a practice-ready assessment becomes. Keep this door open if an Ontario offer does not arrive on your timeline. The same training record serves both.

4 My recommendation, in priority order

1. **Build the training record before anything else.** A certificate is not enough and an employment letter is not a training document. You need, on institutional letterhead and signed by the programme director or head of department, the scope of the training, the start and end dates to the day, that it was full time, each rotation and its duration, and confirmation that you completed the programme. One document per block: internship, residency, fellowship. Where rotations ran alongside each other, estimate the longitudinal equivalent and label it as such. Do not write "I have four years of training in internal medicine." Write the blocks and let the total follow, in the Royal College's own units.
2. **Open the Royal College file and your Medical Council of Canada account.** The Royal College application for assessment of training is the file Ontario turns on. The MCC account on physiciansapply.ca is where your degree and each training block are source-verified for the regulators. Send every block of training separately and source-verified rather than as a single number of years.
3. **Start the hospital search now.** The Ontario licence requires a job offer, and the offer triggers the language check and the licence application. Six years as the most responsible physician is the lead of your file; the examination is the tail. Follow up in writing until you have an answer, even a no.
4. **Keep Option B live without spending on it.** Watch Manitoba postings, because there the job comes first. Alberta needs the MCCQE, which Ontario does not, so book it only if Alberta becomes the plan. If Ontario has not produced an offer by the time your eligibility letter arrives, we revisit the province question against the five levers: examinations, currency, immigration status, language, and assessment model.

REMEMBER WHO READS THE FILE

The people processing it at a College or at the Royal College are administrators without a medical background. They compare what you write against a table. If the table says four years and your letter says three, they cannot help you. Give them everything digested, itemised, and explained.

5 Your next steps

Immediate, the training record

- ☐ Write to your residency programme director and your fellowship supervisor asking for the itemised training document described in step 1. Send them the list of required elements so the letter arrives usable the first time.
- ☐ Ask separately for the internship record from your medical school, with dates and rotations. It is documented even though it is not counted.
- ☐ Check the test date on your IELTS Academic result and note when it passes 24 months.

Short term, the application and the search

- ☐ Open the Medical Council of Canada account and start source verification of your degree and each training block as the documents arrive.
- ☐ Submit the Royal College application for assessment of training once every block is in hand, itemised, with the total stated in their units.
- ☐ Once the eligibility letter arrives, register for the next Royal College written examination.
- ☐ Shortlist Ontario hospitals with internal medicine or hospitalist openings and send one tailored application at a time, following up every two weeks.

6 Resources

Immigration and language

MCC pre-arrival page More on the IMGL framework, from the Medical Council of Canada.
<https://mcc.ca/credentials-and-services/pathways-to-licensure/pathways-for-international-medical-graduates/supporting-itps-before-arrival-in-canada/>

Your licensure pathway

PER Guidebook (Royal College) The Practice Eligibility Route, including the internal medicine training requirement and the practice requirement.
https://royalcollege.ca/content/dam/documents/assessment/credentials-and-exams/PER_GUIDEBOOK_APRIL_2026.pdf

MCC ebook, PRA Specialists section Scroll to the end of the document and focus only on the PRA-Specialist section.
<https://mcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Physician-licensing-in-Canada.pdf>

You are not short of qualifications. You are short of one document, and you already know who signs it.

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This is a sample summary; the client and every personal detail have been changed. A real summary reflects the guidance discussed during your own consultation and is provided for educational purposes alongside your session recording. Immigration cut-off scores, college requirements, and licensing rules change frequently and vary by province, so confirm current details with the relevant bodies before acting. This is not legal or immigration-consultant advice.

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