REGULATIONS FOR THE ST ANDREWS / EDINBURGH / ALBERTA INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMME
UCAS CODE A990

1. **Partners:**
   
   School of Medicine, University of St Andrews  
   College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (CMVM), University of Edinburgh  
   Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (FOMD), University of Alberta

2. **Concept.** This programme is designed to provide a high quality option for Canadian Citizens or Canadian Permanent Residents\(^1\) wishing to obtain a primary medical qualification in the United Kingdom (UK) and return to Canada for further training as a resident physician with a goal to practice medicine in Canada.

3. **Aims.** To provide a route for Canadian Citizens or Canadian Permanent Residents to complete:
   
   a. A Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Medicine from St Andrews, then;
   
   b. After successfully graduating from the BSc (Hons) in Medicine from the University of St Andrews students will be admitted to Year 3 of Edinburgh's 5 year MBChB programme\(^2\). The University of Edinburgh MB ChB is an internationally recognised primary medical qualification, and is equivalent to the MD in Canada and recognised by the Canadian authorities.
   
   c. Preparation for the Pre-Residency Examinations\(^3\).
   
   d. Preparatory training in order to competitively apply for a Residency Programme position, either in Alberta\(^4\) or Canada-wide via CaRMS. This training would be supported by the University of Alberta. For the purposes of the residency programmes the students enrolled will be classified as 'International Medical Graduates.'

4. **Benefits to students.** The A990 programme offers Canadian citizens an alternative route to medical qualification and subsequent employment in Canada. In comparison to the traditional pre-med / med school route there are significant benefits but also some risks and limitations. The programme partners cannot negate the risks or limitations completely, nor should they overplay the rewards. This balanced decision must be made by the applicants and their families.

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<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>A990 Programme</th>
<th>Canadian Medical Graduates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical school place guaranteed</strong></td>
<td>• Medical school place guaranteed</td>
<td>• Can apply to CaRMS on the 1st iteration for residency matching.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Programme lasts 6 years rather than 8</strong></td>
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<td>• No return of service obligations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Two degrees from prestigious Scottish Universities</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risks / limitations</th>
<th>A990 Programme</th>
<th>Canadian Medical Graduates</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Applicant will be considered an IMG, different rules apply to IMGs for Residency matching.</strong></td>
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<td>• Need to gain a place at a Med School after completing a pre-med degree</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Provincial and national legislation regarding IMGs may change in the years between application and residency.</strong></td>
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\(^1\) Applicants need to be a Permanent Resident before applying for a place on the programme.

\(^2\) Students joining Edinburgh’s MBChB join at the 3rd year of a 5 year degree. St Andrews students will have already spent 3 years on the BSc (Hons) so Edinburgh’s 3rd year is actually the 4th year of the programme.

\(^3\) Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination, Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Part 1 and National Assessment Collaboration (NAC) OSCE.

\(^4\) Alberta IMGs are currently outside the CaRMS scheme so they can apply for residency inside Alberta.
University of St Andrews - School of Medicine Handbook

5. **Scale.** The programme is designed for an output of 20 students per year at full capacity.

6. **Outline.** Students on the A990 programme will spend three years in St Andrews completing the BSc (Hons) followed by three years in Edinburgh completing years 3, 4 and 5 of the MBChB. The St Andrews years provide the scientific basis for medical practice then the Edinburgh years will provide the clinical component. This transition is established for the A100 students and has proved to be successful. These years will be referred to as years 1 to 6 of the programme. During the programme the students will complete an attachment in Alberta which is designed to prepare them for applying for residency\(^5\). Throughout the programme student will be supported by the ‘Student mentor’

![Diagram of the programme timeline and components]

### ATTACHMENT\(^6\) TO ALBERTA

7. **Purpose.** The students on the programme will attend one or more formal attachments to the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Alberta in Edmonton. During this period they will be classed as ‘Visiting Students’ to the University of Alberta. A briefing will be provided in Edinburgh’s 3rd year in order that the students are clear about the process and have the opportunity to make informed choices. This attachment is designed to permit:

   a. An extended period of clinical training in disciplines expected to enhance the students’ learning.

   b. An enhanced orientation to the Canadian healthcare system.

   c. An opportunity to train for the MCCEE, MCCQE and NAC OSCE.

   d. Further guidance on the process of application for a residency place enhancing the learning previously delivered in Scotland.

   e. An opportunity for the students to obtain letter(s) of reference from a Canadian physician to be used for the residency application process.

   f. Visits to potential Residency positions

8. **Duration and Timing.** The attachment timings will be resolved by the Programme Board. Students will return to Edinburgh after the attachment to complete the MBChB and graduate.

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\(^5\) Preparation for the MCC Evaluating Examination, MCC Qualifying Examination Part 1 and NAC OSCE.

\(^6\) The time spent in Alberta will be termed the ‘attachment.’ There may be one or more ‘attachments.'
QUALIFYING EXAMS

9. There are a number of exams that IMGs must pass in order to be awarded the licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada. These are:

   a. Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE).
   c. Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Pt 1 (MCCQE-1)
   d. Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Pt 2 (MCCQE-2)

MCCEE

10. This exam is an assessment of a graduate's basic medical knowledge. A pass certificate at MCCEE is required for CaRMS or direct Provincial residency applications. A MCCEE pass is required as a precursor to the MCCQE part 1. The exam is a 4 hour, computer based test and can be written in a wide range of venues, including Scotland. No preparation is provided by the MCC. The exam costs C$1615, the Programme will pay to register students and for one attempt at the exam. Students may attempt the exam as often as is required, resits occur a number of times per year.

11. The exam cannot be taken before the students last year of medical education starts. The exam is open 4 times a year; Jan, May, Sep and Nov. It is likely that A990 Programme students will write this exam in Sep of the last year of the programme; it can't be written before the last clinical year starts and should be complete for the 1st round of CaRMS in November.

12. The FoMD at the University of Alberta will be responsible for provision of advice to students regarding preparation for the MCCEE through a series of seminars/workshops. This preparation will begin early in the programme, while attending St Andrews.

13. NAC OSCE. This practical ranking exam is only run in Canada. The pre-requisite is a pass at MCCEE. The requirement for a pass at the NAC OSCE is likely to change over the next few years however it will be required for some provincial residencies and probably for the CaRMS application. The NAC OSCE is only run in Canada and is held on a range of dates throughout the year.

14. MCCQE Pt1. This is a pass / fail exam. It is normally attempted in the spring of the year that students start their residency. The content is mainly clinical and the format is short written and multiple choice. The objectives are clear and published. There are examinable subjects that are not covered by either the BSc or MBChB curricula; CLEO and PHELO subjects will be delivered to students by FoMD outside the MBChB curriculum. Students who fail the exam may start Residency places and take a resit in November of that year, 4 months into the residency. Students pay the MCCQE exam fees themselves, in common with all other Canadian students.

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7 The MCCEE exam must be written by all internationally trained physicians who wish to practice in Canada, including Canadian graduates from non-Canadian/US medical schools. This exam is a general assessment of medical knowledge. The day-long pencil & paper examination tests knowledge in the principal fields of clinical medicine and operates on a pass/fail system. The MCCEE is written three times per year—January, May, and September. There are 5 centres in Canada: Vancouver, Saskatoon, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax; and 6 testing centres overseas: London, Paris, Riyadh, Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Muscat.

8 2012 rates

9 This is a one day, 7.5 hour test administered on computer. The examination is offered twice a year (May and November). The MCCQE-1 is a computer-adaptive test, meaning the difficulty of a section of questions is adjusted according to how well an examinee performs on the previous section of questions. More difficult items are weighted higher than easier items. The MCCQE-Part 1 is administered in two parts: the first part consists of a 3.5 hour, 196 item multiple choice examination, with all questions asked in single best answer format. Question stems are worded either positively (e.g., “Which of the following is...”) or negatively (e.g., “Which of the following is NOT...”). The second part of the MCCQE-Part 1 is a 4 hour test of clinical reasoning skills consisting of 30-33 cases, each followed by 1-4 questions, for a total of 78-88 questions. These items require examinees to select several actions from short menus of options or to enter short fill-in (written) responses.

10 Community, Legal, Ethics and organisation

11 Public Health, Ethics, Legal and organisation
15. **MCCQE Pt 2**\(^{12}\). An OSCE, taken about 16 months into residency.

### APPLICATION FOR RESIDENCY IN CANADA

16. **Overview.** The process for obtaining licensure and application for post graduate training (Residency) in Canada will be supported by all partners in the Programme. Students will be provided with the appropriate information to ensure all applications for the available and compulsory components of these processes can be completed in the most advantageous and timely manner. It will include logistical support for the performance of the required MCCEE, MCCQE and NAC OSCE examinations. This support will be based on Canadian requirements and timetables. Success, however, in these various requirements will be based on individual applications & performance and will be at the entire discretion of the relevant Canadian authority. Enrolment in the A990 programme infers no assurance of success in any of these processes. Ongoing support begins early in the Programme whilst the students are attending St Andrews and will continue throughout their time in both Edinburgh & at the University of Alberta. In part, this will be facilitated by a Student Mentor, who will be available to all students at all sites on an on-going basis as well as being regularly present in Scotland to meet in person with Students and Scottish Faculty on all aspects of the programme.

17. **NHS Foundation Programme.** The UK controls the number of students entering the NHS Foundation programme by controlling the number of students entering the A100 medical courses. As the A990 programme is out-with that number cap there is no entitlement to transfer to the standard UK / NHS Foundation route.

18. **CaRMS Process.** All IMGs with an UG medical degree are entitled to apply for residency through CaRMS. CaRMS does not accept applications from students who have completed PG medical training. All residency places in Canada are managed through the University by the Postgraduate Medical Education Deaneries at each University and are funded by provincial government ministries. Canadian Medical students studying abroad (CMSAs) are classified as International Medical Graduates (IMGs) and compete for residency positions in the same way as other international students who studied outside Canada or the USA. These students may also apply to the Canadian Residency Matching Service (CaRMS) residency placement scheme. The definitive advice on applications for residency will always be from CaRMS. This website details the specific requirements, Province by Province, for aspects such as; IMG eligibility for 1st or 2nd iteration applications, streams for IMGs / Canadian graduates, return of service, language proficiency, inoculation and health screening, pre-residency programmes, domicile requirements, terms and conditions etc. This programme plan does not attempt to reproduce such advice.

19. **CaRMS Timeframe**\(^{13}\). Residency application occurs in 2 iterations; from late summer to March and from December to April.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>1st iteration</th>
<th>2nd iteration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Application process opens</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website opens</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Selection begins</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td>All application documents submitted(^{14})</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File review</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>January / February</td>
<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Match</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>April</td>
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\(^{12}\) This exam is an objective-structured clinical examination in which candidates rotate through a series of stations. In each station, a brief written statement introduces a clinical problem and directs the candidate to appropriately examine a Standardized Patient (i.e., obtain a focused history or conduct a focused physical examination) and, in some cases, to respond to a series of written questions relating to the patient examination. In the patient examination stations, candidates are observed and evaluated by Physician Examiners using predetermined checklists. There are two types of stations: Couplet Stations and Ten-Minute Stations.

\(^{13}\) Timeframe for provincial direct applications can vary. Alberta’s process opens in June

\(^{14}\) Application, MCCEE pass certificate, NAC OSCE pass certificate, transcripts, letters of reference etc
20. The period of training and assessment during the Alberta attachment would meet the requirement for physicians with the MBChB to undertake an orientation period to the Canadian healthcare system.

21. Edinburgh’s graduation falls about one week after Canadian residency starts. This will need resolution, either the students are excused the first few days of Residency or Edinburgh’s medical graduation comes earlier in graduation week.

22. **Alberta Process.** Canadian citizens and permanent residents who are graduates of UK medical schools who wish to do postgraduate medical training in Alberta are eligible to apply to CaRMS Second Iteration (for the University of Alberta only) provided they have been assessed by the Alberta International Medical Graduate Program (AIMG). All AIMG candidates matched to residency training programs at the University of Alberta in the CaRMS Second Iteration will first be required to successfully complete the AIMG Externship. This assessment and orientation period is required by the University of Alberta to meet their admission requirements prior to the commencement of residency. Therefore only those candidates who successfully complete the Externship will be eligible to begin the residency program to which they matched. See the website at [www.aimg.ca](http://www.aimg.ca). The second iteration is available for program transfer only for graduates of Canadian medical schools. IMG’s currently enrolled in residency programs are not eligible for the CaRMS Match in Alberta.

**STUDENT MANAGEMENT**

23. **Administration.** The overarching concept is that the students on the programme are completing 2 separate and sequential degrees. They matriculate at St Andrews, complete the BSc Hons at St Andrews, graduate from St Andrews, sever all links with St Andrews then matriculation at Edinburgh, complete the Edinburgh MBChB and attachment in Alberta, graduate from Edinburgh and sever all links with Edinburgh. While the students are in one or other university they are wholly administered and regulated by that institution. This will include the full range of student services on offer to all other students.

24. **Academic Progress.** In order to progress a student must meet the academic progression regulations in each institution. Whilst at St Andrews this is straightforward. While on the Edinburgh MBChB then there will be a data transfer process to ensure that the attachment to Alberta has been completed satisfactorily to allow graduation.

   a. Information regarding the regulations for the BSc (Hons) is at [http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/)

   b. Information regarding the regulations for the MBChB at Edinburgh is at [http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/](http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/)

25. **Data transfer.** This will be developed ready for the first student transfers in 2014 but is expected to include data on grades, class position, student support issues and GMC style Transfer of Information declaration. This will include a FtP declaration. The data transfer procedures will be developed in collaboration with the Records Management Offices at both Edinburgh and St Andrews to ensure data protection requirements are met.

26. **Data protection.** Progression and personal data on students will be shared between the three Universities. Students on this route will sign a data release consent form on arrival in St Andrews. This will permit the flow of personal and performance data in all directions between St Andrews, Edinburgh and Alberta for the duration of UG and PG studies. This form will be copied and shared between the partners as the students progress through the programme. The form is at Annex A.

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15 With the exception of alumni or development links and any programme evaluation feedback.
27. **Disclosure.** Students will be required to join the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme on arrival in St Andrews\(^{16}\). The scheme membership will transfer to Edinburgh with the students. A certificate will be required for the Alberta attachment. This will be arranged in Edinburgh prior to the attachment in Canada.

28. **Reporting.** Both Universities will return stats to HESA in accordance with the results reported for current students.

29. **Graduation.** Successful students on this programme will have 2 graduation ceremonies; in the 4\(^{th}\) week of Jun in their third year they will graduate BSc (Hons) from St Andrews then in late Jun of the 6\(^{th}\) year they will graduate MBChB from Edinburgh. Both graduation ceremonies can be completed *in absentia* or delayed until the following winter if there is a good reason for graduating late. Given the modular nature of the programme and both degrees any repeat modules will require delay of graduation by a period of five months to one year during which repeat or remedial studies will be undertaken. A fee will be charged for this additional period.

30. **Student support.** Standard university student support in St Andrews and Edinburgh. During the Alberta attachment advice will be required on advocacy and wellness.

   a. Information regarding student services at St Andrews can be found at [http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studentservices/](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studentservices/)

   b. Information regarding student services in Edinburgh can be found at [http://www.ed.ac.uk/staff-students/students/student-services](http://www.ed.ac.uk/staff-students/students/student-services)

31. **Fitness to Practise and Non-Academic Progress.** The GMC\(^{17}\) Fitness to Practise guidance and regulations will apply to students on the IMP in both Institutions. These are required by the UK General Medical Council and are enshrined in the Universities regulations. The GMC guidance can be found at [http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate/professional_behaviour.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate/professional_behaviour.asp)

   a. The University of St Andrews FtP guidance is in the *school handbook*.

   b. The University of Edinburgh guidance is at [http://docstore.mvm.ed.ac.uk/Committees/Fitness-to-Practise.pdf](http://docstore.mvm.ed.ac.uk/Committees/Fitness-to-Practise.pdf) (*this guidance is currently under review*)

32. **Physical Health of Students and Reasonable Adjustments.** The Higher Education Occupational Physician Society (HEOPS) statement on standards will be applied to all applicants on entry\(^{18}\). Adjustments applied in the UK will be replicated on the University of Alberta attachment\(^{19}\). The University of Alberta will require students to be fit tested for masks.

33. **Accommodation.** There are guaranteed university accommodation (Halls) in St Andrews 1\(^{st}\) year, providing an application is received in time. The University of Edinburgh and the FoMD can help to facilitate accommodation but cannot guarantee university housing for these students.

34. **Complaints and appeals.** Any complaint or appeals against an academic or non-academic judgement is to be made to the university in which the student is currently matriculated\(^{20}\). Complaints will be dealt with by the normal procedures in each Institution. This will cue an investigation which may be referred to the programme board. Appeals against performance or

\(^{16}\) The fee for joining this scheme is £59 as at 2011 rates. This fee is payable by the students.

\(^{17}\) The GMC FtP standards will be applied as a useful standard, rather than as a precursor to GMC registration

\(^{18}\) This policy is at: [http://www.heops.org.uk/HEOPS_Medical_Students_fitness_standards_2011_v5.pdf](http://www.heops.org.uk/HEOPS_Medical_Students_fitness_standards_2011_v5.pdf).

\(^{19}\) Pre warning from the Universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh is required to ensure University of Alberta is suitably prepared for provision of adjustments

\(^{20}\) The exception being the summer between graduation in St Andrews and matriculation in Edinburgh. During the period complaints should be directed to the University of St Andrews.
graded work during the Alberta Attachment are to be made in the first instance to the University of Edinburgh.

a. Information regarding the process for student appeals at St Andrews is contained the School handbook

b. Information regarding the process for student appeals in Edinburgh is contained the MBChB regulations accessible via the above link and also at University level at http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services.students/undergraduate/academic-appeals

35. Intercalated degree / MBA. This may be possible, based on merit, ideally between years 3 and 4 of the programme.

36. Leave of Absence. Leave of absence will be considered only for:

a. Students participating in national level sport.

b. Significant health issues

c. Significant welfare issues

Students requesting leave of absence should do so to the university in which they are matriculated.

FINANCE

37. Fee Concept. Fees will be charged in pounds sterling by St Andrews for the time spent on the BSc (Hons) and by Edinburgh for the time spent on the MBChB. This includes fees charged for any repeat years, part years or semesters. As the C$ / £ exchange rate fluctuates significantly no effort has been made to quote prices in C$ and interested parties should consider the exchange rate at the time of reading.

38. Student Fees:

a. St Andrews will charge the standard overseas tuition fee for Medicine.

b. Edinburgh will charge the standard overseas tuition fee for Medicine.

c. Students terminating their studies may be entitled to a rebate, according to the regulations of that university.

d. The programme will pay the MCCEE fee; from year 5 onwards. Students will pay their own MCCQE exam fees and NAC OSCE fees.

39. Canadian Bursaries and Sponsorship. Alberta residents are eligible for Alberta Government bursaries. Students from other Canadians provinces are encouraged to check with their provincial ministries. It is assumed that any such bursary would be paid to the student or their family not the university.

http://www.business-school.ed.ac.uk/mba/edinburgh-mba
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Revision Description</th>
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