

PROGRAMME PLAN
ST ANDREWS / EDINBURGH / ALBERTA
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMME

This document describes the St Andrews / Edinburgh / Alberta International Medical programme. The programme is established under the arrangements described in the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of St Andrews, University of Edinburgh and University of Alberta.

Signed by Richard Federak

On behalf of the University of Alberta June. 24. 2016
(Date)

Signed by John Small

On behalf of the University of Edinburgh 24 / 6 / 2016
(Date)

Signed by John Curran

On behalf of the University of St Andrews 24 | 6 | 2016
(Date)

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This document describes the St Andrews / Edinburgh / Alberta International Medical programme. The programme is established under the arrangements described in the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of St Andrews, University of Edinburgh and University of Alberta.

The programme links the three institutions, using pre-existing courses, to deliver a coherent medical education programme for a specific audience and for the mutual benefit of the partners and the students on the programme.

The programme plan is edited by the University of St Andrews. The programme plan is augmented by:

- **The Programme Finance Plan.** This is owned by the College Accountant, CMVM.
- **The [recruiting portal](#).** Hosted by the University of St Andrews.
- **The student focussed programme regulations.** This document, less the Annexes, material relevant to students and applicants.
- **The Student Mentor.** This individual is provided by the University of Alberta, there are programme funds to pay his / her costs. The job description is an Annex to this Programme plan.
- **The Clinical Mentor.** This post will be provided by the University of Edinburgh, funds provided by the programme plan to pay costs. The job description is an Annex to this Programme plan.
- **The programme-specific Data Protection Form.** This is hosted on the St Andrews student handbook.

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PROGRAMME OUTLINE

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 Residents¹ 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 practise 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 3}. The University of Edinburgh MB ChB is an internationally recognised primary medical qualification, accredited by the General Medical Council (GMC), is equivalent to the MD in Canada and is recognised by the Canadian authorities.
- c. Preparation for the Pre-Residency Examinations.
- d. Advice in order to competitively apply for a Residency Programme position, either in Alberta⁴ 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.** This 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. The programme is open to school leavers and graduate entrants.

5. **Limitations to students.** Students who enrol on the A990 Programme are not permitted to transfer to the St Andrews or Edinburgh A100/A101 programmes, nor will it be possible for them to make independent applications to other A100/A101 courses in the UK. Students on this A990 programme will not be eligible to enter the UK Foundation Years postgraduate clinical training programme after graduation. UK government requirements mean that the University of Edinburgh Medical School will not be able to provide approval for application to the UK Foundation programme meaning that they will not be eligible to apply.

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.

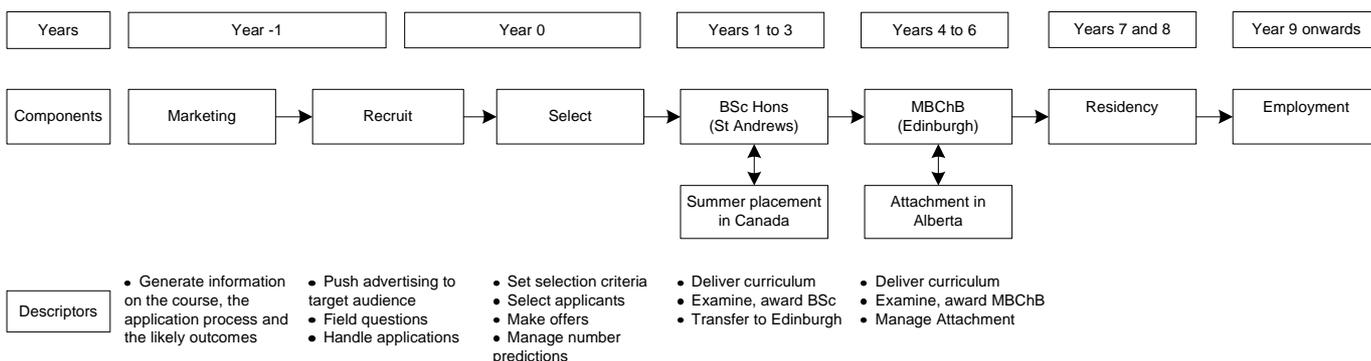
³ From September 2016 the Edinburgh programme will be a 6-year programme, 1st year students will enter the 6 year course; A990 students joining from 2019 will join year 4 and complete years 4-6 of the programme

⁴ Alberta IMGs are currently outside the CaRMS scheme so they can apply for Residency inside Alberta

	A990 Programme	Canadian Medical Graduates
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical school place guaranteed • Programme lasts 6 years rather than an average of 8 or more years • Two degrees from prestigious Scottish Universities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplicity of studying at home
Risks / limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant will be considered an IMG, different rules apply to IMGs for Residency matching. • Provincial and national legislation regarding IMGs may change in the years between application and Residency. • Graduates will not be given approval to enter the UK Foundation years training programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to compete for a place at a Med School after securing a place and completing at least 2 years of post-secondary education

6. **Scale.** The programme is designed for an output of 20 students per year at full capacity, this will involve recruiting up to 22 students into St Andrews 1st year.

7. **Outline.** Students on the 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 MBChB⁵. The St Andrews years provide the scientific basis for medical practice and some early clinical exposure then the Edinburgh years will provide the clinical component. 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 should help them prepare for applying for Residency⁶. Throughout the Programme students will be supported by the ‘Student mentor’



⁵ From September 2016 the Edinburgh programme will be a 6-year programme; A990 students joining from 2019 will join year 4 and complete years 4-6 of the programme

⁶ Preparation for the MCC Evaluating Examination, MCC Qualifying Examination Part 1 and NAC OSCE.

ATTACHMENT⁷ TO ALBERTA

8. **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 at Edinburgh 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 MCCQE
- 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.

9. **Duration and Timing.** The target is a total of 18 weeks out of Edinburgh in years 5 and 6 (ie Edinburgh's 4th and 5th years)⁸. The attachment timings will be resolved between staff in Edinburgh and Alberta, but the aim is to sit the NAC OSCE in this period. These weeks will be a mix of term and holiday time. Students will return to Edinburgh after the attachment to complete the MBChB and graduate⁹. Edinburgh will provide a travel and subsistence subsidy to students for the period of time spent in Alberta.

10. **Content.** The clinical content of the attachment will be resolved between Edinburgh and Alberta staff.

11. **Additional time in Canada.** In addition students will be permitted to be in Canada for a few weeks in the spring of Edinburgh's 5th year to attend residency interviews. Students may choose to take a summer placement in Canada in the summer between St Andrews 2nd and 3rd years or between the St Andrews 3rd year and Edinburgh's 3rd year.

QUALIFYING EXAMS

12. 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:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| • Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination | MCCEE |
| • National Assessment Collaboration Objective Structured Clinical Exam | NAC OSCE |
| • Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Pt 1 | MCCQE-1 |
| • Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Pt 2 | MCCQE-2 |

⁷ The time spent in Alberta will be termed the 'attachment.' There may be one or more 'attachments'.

⁸ From September 2016 the Edinburgh programme will be a 6-year programme, 1st year students will enter the 6 year course; A990 students joining from 2019 will join year 4 and complete years 4-6 of the programme.

⁹ From 2012, in the Edinburgh Year 5 curriculum, students will undertake a 2-3 week "Student Assistantship" where they "shadow" a Foundation doctor and undertake an enhanced role in health care delivery. Since this is a key element in the Edinburgh programme, it would be desirable for Canadian students to undertake it when they return to Scotland, but this can be open to negotiation.

13. **MCCEE.** This exam is an assessment of a graduate's basic medical knowledge.¹⁰ 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\$1615,¹¹ the Programme will pay to register students and for one attempt at the exam. Students may attempt the exam as often as required, resits occur a number of times per year. The exam can be taken in the 20 months prior to the student's graduation¹². The exam is open in Jan, Mar, May, Sep and Nov. It is assumed that students will sit the exam in March of Edinburgh's 4th year. The FoMD at the University of Alberta will be responsible for provision of advice to students regarding preparation for the MCCEE.

14. **NAC OSCE.** The NAC OSCE is a practical ranking exam that is only run in Canada on a range of dates throughout the year. It is designed to be national, portable and standardised. The pre-requisite to sit the NAC OSCE is a pass at MCCEE. The exam can only be taken once in any calendar year. Students may not resit the exam once it is passed. It is assumed that students will take the NAC OSCE in September of Edinburgh's 5th year.

15. **MCCQE Pt1**¹³. 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; CLEO¹⁴ and PHELO¹⁵ 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.

16. **MCCQE Pt 2**¹⁶. An OSCE, taken about 16 months into Residency. Not part of the programme

17. **Timings.** Best advice on timings may change if exam schedules change, however, current plans suggest the MCCEE in the students 5th year and the NAC OSCE in the start of the students 6th year.

¹⁰ 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 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 centres in Canada and in the UK and elsewhere. In 2012 Prometric ran the test.

¹¹ 2012 rates

¹² In this case this is graduation MBChB.

¹³ This is a one day, 7.5 hour test administered on computer. 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.

¹⁴ Community, Legal, Ethics and organisation

¹⁵ Public Health, Ethics, Legal and organisation

¹⁶ 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.

APPLICATION FOR RESIDENCY IN CANADA

18. **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 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 and 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. On-going support begins early in the Programme whilst the students are attending St Andrews and will continue throughout their time in both Edinburgh and 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.

19. **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 is found on the [CaRMS website](#). 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.

20. **CaRMS Timeframe**¹⁷. Residency application occurs in 2 iterations; from late summer to March and from December to April. The definitive advice is found on the the [CaRMS website](#)

¹⁷ Timeframe for provincial direct applications can vary. Alberta's process opens in June

MARKETING, RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

21. **Target audience.** Only Canadian citizens and Permanent Residents are eligible for this Programme, as per policy and guidelines of Provincial Governments in Canada. The programme is suitable for school leavers and graduate entrants.
22. **Marketing.** In this Programme marketing is defined as:
- a. Generation and dissemination of information about the Programme, the application process, the entry standards, the likely outcomes and benefits of the Programme. This will be a précis of the Programme plan aimed at potential students.
 - b. St Andrews will inform University of Alberta about its existing recruitment strategy in target Canadian Schools.
23. **Recruiting.** In this Programme 'Recruiting' involves:
- a. Identifying the target audience.
 - b. Disseminating the marketing information to the target audience.
 - c. Fielding and answering questions from interested parties.
 - d. Receiving and handling applications.
 - e. St Andrews will deliver the 'marketing and recruitment' function although advice from the other partners on potential target audiences will be welcome.
24. **Selection.** The criteria for admission and the selection process will normally be the same as for other international students joining the University of St Andrews. Selection will be conducted in the normal St Andrews timeframe; ie interviews pre and post-Christmas and offers out by mid-March. Selection will involve:
- a. A policy on desired entry numbers to achieve about 20 students enrolling.
 - b. Interviewing. This will be either in person in Scotland or via video link, as is normal for some overseas student applications. Edinburgh undertake to provide an interviewer if requested and the Alberta based Mentor may be able to attend.
 - c. Making offers. Normal St Andrews process will be followed. A990 students should be advised that they need to book accommodation even if they are holding a conditional offer.
25. **Visa and Immigration.** Administration Working Group to monitor UK BA developments as required.

STUDENT MANAGEMENT

26. **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, ending their academic and administrative links with St Andrews¹⁸ then matriculate at Edinburgh, complete the Edinburgh MBChB, including clinical attachment in Alberta, graduate from Edinburgh, ending their academic and administrative 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.

27. **Academic Progress.** In order to progress a student must meet the academic progression regulations in each institution. Whilst at St Andrews this is within this single Institution. While on the Edinburgh MBChB 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 <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/rules/>

b. Information regarding the regulations for the MBChB at Edinburgh is at <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/>

28. **Data Transfer.** This will be developed ready for the first student transfers in 2014 to include data on grades, class position, student support issues and GMC style Transfer of Information declaration. This will include a Fitness to Practise 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.

29. **Data Protection.** Progression and personal data on students will be shared between the three Universities subject to and in accordance with relevant data privacy laws. Students on the programme will be provided with an appropriate fair processing notice on arrival in St Andrews. This will permit the flow of relevant personal and performance data in all directions between St Andrews, Edinburgh and Alberta for the duration of UG and PG studies. This notice will be agreed between the parties and copied and shared between the partners as the students progress through the Programme.

30. **Disclosure.** Students will be required to join the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme on arrival in St Andrews¹⁹. The scheme membership will transfer to Edinburgh with the students. A certificate will be required for the Alberta attachment, if required. This will be arranged in Edinburgh prior to the attachment in Canada.

31. **Reporting.** Both Universities will return stats to HESA in accordance with results reporting for current students.

32. **Graduation.** Successful students on this Programme will have 2 graduation ceremonies; in the 4th week of Jun in their 3rd year they will graduate BSc (Hons) from St Andrews then in late Jun of the 6th 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 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.

¹⁸ With the exception of alumni or development links and any programme evaluation feedback.

¹⁹ The fee for joining this scheme is £59 as at 2011 rates. This fee is payable by the students.

33. **Student Support.** Students will have access to all aspects of usual 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/student-services/>
- b. Information regarding student services in Edinburgh can be found at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/students/student-services>

34. **Fitness to Practise and Non-Academic Progress.** The GMC²⁰ 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/studentftp.asp>

35. **Physical Health of Students and Reasonable Adjustments.** The Higher Education Occupational Physician Society (HEOPS) statement on standards will be applied to all applicants on entry²¹. Adjustments applied in the UK will be replicated on the University of Alberta attachment²². The University of Alberta will require students to be fit tested for masks.

36. **Accommodation.** University accommodation (Halls) is guaranteed in St Andrews 1st 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.

37. **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 matriculated²³. Complaints will be dealt with by the normal procedures in each Institution. This will cue an investigation which may be referred to the Executive Committee. Appeals against performance or graded work during the Alberta Attachment are to be made in the first instance to the University of Edinburgh.

- a. Information regarding the regulations for the BSc (Hons) is <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/rules/>
- b. Information regarding the regulations for the MBChB at Edinburgh is at <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/>

38. **Intercalated degree / MBA²⁴.** This may be possible, based on merit, ideally between years 3 and 4 of the Programme.

39. **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.
- d. Students requesting leave of absence should do so to the university in which they are matriculated.

²⁰ The GMC FtP standards will be applied as a useful standard, rather than as a precursor to GMC registration

²¹ This policy is at: http://www.heops.org.uk/HEOPS_Medical_Students_fitness_standards_2011_v5.pdf.

²² Pre warning from the Universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh is required to ensure University of Alberta is suitably prepared for provision of adjustments

²³ 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.

²⁴ <http://www.business-school.ed.ac.uk/mba/edinburgh-mba>

40. **Deferred entry to Edinburgh.** This will be permitted only for career development or significant domestic crisis.

STUDENT FEES

41. **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.

42. **Student Fees:**

- a. St Andrews will charge the standard overseas tuition fee for Medicine. See: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/money/tuitionfees/feetable/#d.en.78537>
- b. Edinburgh will charge the standard overseas tuition fee for Medicine. See; <http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/tuition-fees/undergraduate/non-standards-2016>
- 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. Students will pay their own MCCQE exam fees and NAC OSCE fees.

43. **Canadian Bursaries and Sponsorship.** Alberta residents are eligible for Alberta Government bursaries. Students from other Canadian 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.