

May 10, 2023

Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (SEAP)

Background

The Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (SEAP) provides internationally trained physicians an opportunity to receive training in their desired subspecialty. Eligibility to write the examination is granted for a 2-year period, after which the learner must meet all the credential, training and examination requirements for recognition of affiliate status.

The SEAP maintains engagement with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) and offers learners added recognition of training as a Subspecialist Affiliate. The learner is listed on the RCPSC directory while providing personalized support and assistance with the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program. Successful learners receive a formal attestation of examination completion within their subspecialty.

It is important to note that the SEAP is not a route to licensure, nor does it allow the trainee to practice in Canada. Applicants are not considered fellows of the RCPSC but rather a Subspecialist Affiliate of the RCPSC. This affiliation indicates the learner has satisfied all credentials, training and examination requirements of the subspecialty program, which is a highly regarded by patients and is a recognized pathway to a higher tiered position in many countries.

SEAP Eligibility:

- Applicant is an internationally trained physician with a base specialty (outside Canada and partnered jurisdictions) with a strong interest in completing training in their desired subspecialty.
- Applicant does not have RCPSC certification in a primary specialty.
- Applicant must be registered to train as a Clinical Fellow (CF) in an accredited Canadian subspecialty residency program.
- Applicant must submit an application through the RCPSC website (including training verification, proof of identity, medical degree, etc.) the year before the intended examination.

Process Summary:

- The Fellowship Director (FD) along with the Program Director (PD) will work closely to ensure:
 - The goals and objectives stated in the offer letter match that of a subspecialty residency program. (The offer letter should indicate SEAP candidacy.)
 - The Clinical Fellowship appointment documentation must identify the CF as a SEAP candidate. This must be sent to PGME for review, approval, and registration.
 - The curriculum and evaluations are the same as those of a residency trainee registered in the subspecialty.
 - The program must be similar in duration and should be competency-based.
- After internal review by the FD and PD, the PD must sign off on the SEAP, as the submission to RCPSC must match that of the subspecialty residency program.
- The PD and PGME are responsible for signing and completing the Confirmation of Completion of Training (CCT) to attest to the completion of all training requirements for consideration.