

A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY OF CANADIANS WHO STUDIED MEDICINE ABROAD AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES' REALIZATION OF ENTRY-TO-PRACTICE MILESTONES

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ABSTRACT: Poster (P-8)

- Purpose:** Visa trainees are international medical graduates (IMG) who come to Canada to train in a post-graduate medical education (PGME) program under a student or employment visa, and are expected to return to their country of origin after training. We examined the credentialing and retention of visa trainees who entered PGME programs between 2005 and 2011.
- Methods:** Using the National IMG Database, we created two cohorts and examined the three milestones: 1) obtaining a post-graduate position, 2) passing the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Part 2 (MCCQE2), and 3) obtaining a specialty designation. We excluded visa trainees and American medical school graduates. Each cohort included IMG who had completed pre-requisites for each milestone, and who would have normally realized the milestones between 2005 and 2011 (the period covered by the Database).
- Results:** Among 6,925 eligible IMG in cohort 1, 31% obtained a post-graduate position. Of the 1,214 in cohort 2, 92.8% passed the MCCQE2 and 73.2% obtained a specialty designation. After controlling for other significant predictors, Canadians who graduated from Western or Caribbean medical schools (OR=4.89; 95%CI=4.00-6.00) and Canadians who graduated from other (not Western or Caribbean) medical schools (OR=1.57; 95%CI=1.37-1.79) were more likely to obtain a post-graduate position than non-Canadian IMG who graduated from other medical schools. There was no difference among the IMG groups in passing the MCCQE2 or obtaining a specialty designation.
- Conclusion:** These findings support policies that do not distinguish post-graduate applicants by citizenship or permanent residency prior to medical school.