Society of Rural Physicians of Canada

Guide to Arranging Rural Electives in Canada for Medical Students

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Tips in Organizing Rural Electives in Canada

1. Apply early to avoid disappointment. Give yourself 4-6 months especially for out of province electives. (Newfoundland requires 8-12 months)

2. Don’t let cost be a deterrent. Your home university often have travel bursaries and many rural communities will subsidize your accommodations/meals. Explore all your options!

3. If cost is an issue electives with your home province can save a substantial amount of money and many more stipends are available.

4. Ensure your TB testing is up to date (many times it must be repeated) and verify your Hep B immunity status.

5. Minimum elective time is 2 weeks, so don’t plan to do otherwise!

6. Certain times are often unavailable for elective students so consider this in your planning process (each school has a different time that is restricted)

7. Electives would only be available for those who are in their clerkship years (ie. 3rd or 4th year medical students).
British Columbia

**Website Information:**

http://www.med.ubc.ca/education/md_ugrad/clerkship_electives.htm

- Provides information on communities available, deadlines, how to apply and how to develop a self directed elective
- Rural FP electives are NOT available June-August (as of 2008)

**Contact Information:**

Visiting Student Electives Coordinator  
UBC Faculty of Medicine  
Dean's Office Undergraduate Education Office  
The Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre  
2775 Laurel St. Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9  
T: 604-875-4111 x 61579 or 604-875-4500  
F: 604-875-5611  
elective@exchange.ubc.ca

**Visit the below website for instructions on how to format email inquiries**

http://www.med.ubc.ca/education/md_ugrad/clerkship_electives/visiting_student_electives_contact_info.htm

**Financial Assistance:**

- Accommodation & meals – In many rural communities these may be covered by the hospital; based on availability (first come, first served)
Alberta

Website Information:

http://www.rpap.ab.ca/medical_students/home.html

- Information on the Rural Physician Action Plan (RPAP) in Alberta
- Info on planning electives (speciality and family medicine) and core family medicine rotations in rural Alberta

Contact Information:

Rosemary Burness
Medical Students’ Initiatives Coordinator for Rural Physician Action Plan (RPAP)
Phone: 403-995-2136
Email: rosemary.burness@rpap.ab.ca.

Out of Province Students:
- Need to contact the below individuals for the appropriate application forms

Calgary Electives Contact: elective@ucalgary.ca
Alberta Electives Contact: electives@med.ualberta.ca

Special Opportunities in Alberta:

- Summer Externship Program – work with a rural physician over the summer (4-12 weeks) and complete a health related research project - Provides students with a $1000 grant and your accommodations/travel/meal costs will also be covered (however you will have to arrange it on your own)

More information is available on the RPAP website:
http://www.rpap.ab.ca/medical_students/summer_externship_program.html

Financial Assistance:

- Rural Student Medical Bursary and Medical School Award (offered by RPAP)
- The above website also provides info on external sources of funding
- All costs are students’ responsibility except for Alberta students
Saskatchewan

Website Information:


- Provides guidelines for visiting students and the application that must be completed

Contact Information:

Clinical Clerkship Elective Program
College of Medicine
Room 2.8.01
St. Paul’s Hospital
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0Z9
Email: janine.corbett@saskatoonhealthregion.ca

Financial Assistance:

- All costs are the students’ responsibility – there may be assistance in accommodation arrangement
Manitoba

Website Information:

- Provides guidelines, application form and immunization forms
- Student is responsible for all costs associated with their elective

Contact Information:

Electives Program Administrator
270 – 727 McDermot Avenue
Winnipeg, MB Canada R3E 3P5

Email: Electives_Administrator@umanitoba.ca
Ontario

Website and Contact Information:

- Ontario is served by multiple organizations divided by region

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| Northern Ontario Electives Program (NEP) | NOSM        | NE Ontario  
NW Ontario | [http://www.nosm.ca/education/general.asp?id=526&terms=elective](http://www.nosm.ca/education/general.asp?id=526&terms=elective) | [shanna.leclair@normed.ca](mailto:shanna.leclair@normed.ca)  
[Northeast]  
[elise.rheaume@normed.ca](mailto:elise.rheaume@normed.ca)  
[Northwest]  
[bobbi.derkson@normed.ca](mailto:bobbi.derkson@normed.ca) |
| Southwestern Ontario Education Network (SWOMEN) | UWO         | SW Ontario        | [http://www.swomen.ca/rural.php](http://www.swomen.ca/rural.php) | [mary.peterson@schulich.uwo.ca](mailto:mary.peterson@schulich.uwo.ca)  
[Rural Regional Placement Coordinator] |
| Rural Ontario Medical Program (ROMP) | Toronto/ McMaster | Central Ontario  | [www.romponline.com](http://www.romponline.com) | [undergrads@romponline.com](mailto:undergrads@romponline.com) |
| Eastern Regional Medical Education Program (ERMEP) | Ottawa/ Queens  | Eastern Ontario  | [www.ermep.com](http://www.ermep.com) | [whans@ermep.com](mailto:whans@ermep.com) |

Financial Assistance:

- Accommodation and travel are covered for Ontario Students
- There may be some assistance for out-of-province clerks on rotations of 4 weeks or longer.
Quebec

Website Information:

- Provides application guidelines, fees and links to application forms

Contact Information:

Mary Cecere
Student Affairs Coordinator, Visiting Electives Program
McGill University, Faculty of Medicine,
McIntyre Medical Sciences Building, 6th floor
3655 Promenade Sir William Osler
Montreal, QC H3G 1Y6
Fax:(514) 398-3595
Phone:(514) 398-5390
Email: electives.med@mcgill.ca
Newfoundland and Labrador

Website Information:

http://www.med.mun.ca/ClerkshipElectives/Visiting-Students.aspx
  • Provides application guidelines, immunization details, and accommodation information

Contact Information:

Electives Coordinator
Undergraduate Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Room 2743 Health Sciences Centre
St. John's, NL A1B 3V6
Telephone 709-777-6669
Fax 709-777-8379

Financial Assistance:

  • Accommodation may be covered outside of St. John’s, all other costs are students’ responsibility
New Brunswick

Website Information:

http://undergraduate.medicine.dal.ca/electives.htm
- Provides application guidelines and application forms (New Brunswick options are linked in the program list)

Contact Information:

**Organized by Dalhousie University for all NB, NS & PEI electives**

Electives Coordinator
Room C-125 - Clinical Research Centre - 5849 University Avenue
Dalhousie University - Halifax, NS B3H 4H7
Tel 902.494.7843
Fax 902.494.8884
Email: electives@dal.ca

Financial Assistance:

- Accommodation may be provided in more rural communities (rooms available in hospitals)
Nova Scotia

Website Information:

http://undergraduate.medicine.dal.ca/electives.htm
  • Provides application guidelines and application forms

**Organized by Dalhousie University for all NB, NS & PEI electives**

Contact information:

Electives Coordinator
Room C-125 - Clinical Research Centre - 5849 University Avenue
Dalhousie University - Halifax, NS B3H 4H7
Tel 902.494.7843
Fax 902.494.8884
Email: electives@dal.ca

Financial Assistance:

  • Accommodation may be provided in more rural communities (rooms available in hospitals)
Prince Edward Island

**Website Information:**
http://undergraduate.medicine.dal.ca/electives.htm
  - Application forms, guidelines and links to opportunities in PEI

**Organized by Dalhousie University for all NB, NS & PEI electives**

**Contact Information:**

Lynn Sutherland
Site Administrator
PEI Family Medicine Residency Program
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PEI. C1A 7N8
Phone: (902) 620 - 3871
Fax: (902) 620 – 3072
Email: lasutherland@ihis.org

Carrie Barlow
Undergraduate Medical Education Coordinator
Email: (902) 620 - 3896

Dalhousie Contact:
Electives Coordinator
Room C-125 - Clinical Research Centre - 5849 University Avenue
Dalhousie University - Halifax, NS B3H 4H7
Tel 902.494.7843
Fax 902.494.8884
Email: electives@dal.ca

**Financial Assistance:**

- Accommodations are provided through the Financial Incentive Program
  - Reimburses the student for the cost of the accommodation up to a maximum of $500, with an official receipt
  - They also offer a $100 travel allowance for a 4-week rotation and a $200 travel allowance for a 6-week rotation.
Yukon

Website Information:
http://www.yukonmedicalcouncil.ca/physician_resources.html

- Provides application form to register as a medical student under the Yukon Medical Council

Application Process:
1). Contact Dr. Stephanie Buchanan at sraeb1971@hotmail.com to find a preceptor and clinical site.

2). Register with the Yukon Medical Council by filling out the application form at http://www.yukonmedicalcouncil.ca/physician_resources.html.

Contact Information:

Yukon Medical Council
Box 2703 (C-18)
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6
Email: ymc@gov.yk.ca
Telephone: (867) 667-3774
Fax: (867) 393-6483

Contact person: Huy Chau (huy2121@hotmail.com)

Financial Assistance:

The Medical Student Assistance Fund can be applied through http://www.yukondoctors.ca/about/students.html.

- Provides up to a max of $300 for travel, accommodations and meals
- MUST apply prior to travel
Northwest Territories

Website Information:

- No formal website available

Application Process:
1). Contact the Mentorship Programs Development Officer at mentorship@gov.nt.ca to find a preceptor and clinical site.

2). Submit a letter from your dean and an acceptance letter from the physician to the Registrar of Health Professional Licensing.

Contact Information:
Mentorship Programs Development Officer
Corporate Human Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
YK Center, 6th Floor
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9
Phone: (867) 920-3015
Fax: (867) 873-0232
E-mail: physicians@gov.nt.ca

Registrar, Health Professional Licensing
Department of Health and Social Services
Government of Northwest Territories
8th Floor Centre Square Tower (5022-49 ST)
P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Telephone: (867) 920-8058

Financial Assistance:

- Emmett Hall Clerkship Elective Bursary offered by the Department of Health and Social Services towards accommodations/travel
Nunavut

**Currently no electives are available for medical students**