

# GRADUATE STUDIES 2023/24 INFORMATION SHEET



## **ALYSHIA PHILLIPS MCISc PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT GRADUATE/ALUMNA**

As a 2018 graduate of the MCISc. Pathologists' Assistant Program, Alyshia Phillips has a fulfilling career at London Health Sciences Centre as a Pathologists' Assistant (PA). As an integral part of the healthcare team, Alyshia is able to provide the highest standard of patient care with the knowledge and skills she gained as a graduate student at Western University.

This highly specialized program offered at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry combines didactic educational learning with clinical hands-on training. The program teaches students surgical and autopsy pathology dissection skills in diverse clinical settings, ranging from academic and tertiary care and the provincial forensic

pathology unit, to community hospitals throughout all of Ontario.

Alyshia fulfilled the research component of the program by investigating stem cell antigen expression and demonstrated laboratory techniques including quantitative polymerase chain reaction, immunohistochemical stains and RNA isolation. Students have the opportunity to hone their research abilities in various topics including basic science, quality assurance, educational and clinical studies.

Graduates in this program are required to compile a surgical case report with a resident or pathologist mentor. With the support of her supervisors and colleagues, Alyshia was able to present her unique case report on Hirschsprungs' Disease at the American Association of Pathologists' Assistants Annual Conference in New Orleans in 2018. As a student, Alyshia and her peers also had the opportunity to attend conferences and continuing education lectures including the Ontario Association of Pathologists Meeting and the Canadian Association of Pathologists Meeting.

The expertise acquired during her training has enabled Alyshia to be a positive contribution to the PA profession, where lie ample opportunities to teach, continue learning and grow as a key part of the healthcare team.

## **PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT MCISc**

Pathologists' Assistants (PAs) are highly-trained healthcare professionals who work under the supervision of a pathologist.

PAs perform the initial examination and dissection of all surgically removed tissues and, to a variable extent, the dissection of bodies during postmortem examinations.

Our program was the first of its kind to be accredited in Canada. Graduates are eligible to write the ASCP-PA certification examination, as well as the CCCPA examination.

In the most recent years, all of our graduates seeking employment upon graduation found jobs before graduation - many with multiple job offers. Most (97%) of our graduates from the last five years (2018-2023) are employed as pathologists' assistants across Canada. The remaining 3% (one graduate) are pursuing further education.

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## PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT

	<b>MCISc</b>
<b>TIME TO COMPLETION</b>	6 Terms (2 years) – Full-time
<b>ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS</b>	Four-Year Bachelor's degree (science background preferred) or MD/DDS degree from an accredited university
<b>APPLICATION DEADLINES</b>	March 15
<b>FUNDING</b>	<b>Students may be eligible for:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OSAP and other bursaries and scholarships</li></ul>

To request a tour of the Pathologists' Assistant Graduate Program, please go to [schulich.uwo.ca/pathol/gps/mclsc\\_pathologists\\_assistant/request\\_a\\_tour.html](https://schulich.uwo.ca/pathol/gps/mclsc_pathologists_assistant/request_a_tour.html) for additional information, etc.

This is a continuous program of 22 months duration. The students take various courses at Western University during year 1 (September to April). In the first five to six weeks of Year 2 (May to early June), they will rotate through various laboratories of London Health Sciences Centre and perform several related activities. Students complete rotations through autopsy and gross surgical pathology for a total of 11 months (June to April of year 2) at London Health Sciences Centre, University Hospital, as well as three Toronto sites. During year 2 they also complete a pathology research project. During the last two months of year 2 (May and June), students complete a community hospital rotation.

Please visit our website at [schulich.uwo.ca/pathol](https://schulich.uwo.ca/pathol) or send an email at [gradstudies@schulich.uwo.ca](mailto:gradstudies@schulich.uwo.ca) for more information.