

# National Assessment Collaboration Examination becomes Mandatory

The National Assessment Collaboration (NAC) examination will be mandatory for all International Medical Graduates (IMG) applying for first-year residency positions in Ontario that start July 1, 2015.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) commissioned an independent review of the selection process for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) to access postgraduate medical education in Ontario. Recommendation #10 specified that the NAC examination should be mandatory for all IMGs applying for first-year residency positions in Ontario. The NAC examination performance provides a standardized assessment of clinical skills (amongst other factors) and would allow Program Directors to determine who will be invited to an interview.

The Ontario Centre for the Evaluation of Health Professionals Educated Abroad (CEHPEA) and the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) have agreed that a March and September sitting could accommodate all individuals and provide results in time for the Canadian Resident Matching Service ([CaRMS](#)) process.

To allow all IMGs the opportunity to complete the NAC Examination, the MCC approved a change to the eligibility criteria for the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE). As of June 1, 2013, international medical students will be able to apply to take the MCCEE up to 20 months before their graduation date. The MCC is making this change to improve students' access to the NAC examination. The NAC examination assesses international medical graduates and students for entry into residency. A pass result on the MCCEE is a requirement for application to the NAC examination.

With the change in eligibility criteria, candidates will now be able to access both examinations more easily within the CaRMS application timeframe.

For candidates seeking a residency position on July 1, 2015, as an example, this change will mean:

1. Candidates graduating in spring 2015 will be able to apply for the MCCEE 20 months before their graduation date, i.e. as of fall 2013.
2. Once their application to the MCCEE is accepted, these candidates must take the MCCEE by the March 2014 session. The March 2014 session is the last possible chance for candidates to take the MCCEE if they also wish to take the NAC examination prior to the 2015 CaRMS R-1 Match.
3. Candidates who have taken the MCCEE in March 2014 or earlier and who have received a pass result can apply for the September 2014 NAC examination in spring 2014.
4. Results from the September 2014 NAC examination will be provided in time for the CaRMS application process for the 2015 R-1 Main Residency Match.

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