

# North American Post Graduate Medical Education (PGME) Programs Application Process

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March 24, 2016






# If you choose North American PGME


- Your checklist is:
  - ✓ Recommended Universities
  - ✓ Application deadline
  - ✓ Application requirements:
    - GRE?
    - TOEFL?
  - ✓ Curriculum authentication:
    - Physician: ECFMG (US) or MCC (Canada)
    - Other medical and health specialities: WES (North America)
  - ✓ Statement of purpose (US) or Letter of intent (Canada)
  - ✓ CV or resume
  - ✓ Have you references and recommendation letters ready

Before you  
start


- Check if your name spelling on the Diploma matches your name in the passport **(VERY IMPORTANT)**
- Diploma should be in English if not please **translate** in a certified translation center.
- Learn about your program of interest **READ**

# Recommended Universities

← → ↻ 🏠 <https://ru.moe.gov.sa/Search>   

 وزارة التعليم  
Ministry of Education

نظام الجامعات  
الموصى بها

 سفير  
الجامعات

الرئيسية ⌚ حول النظام 🗨 الأسئلة الشائعة

البحث 🔍

بحث عن جامعة 🔍

الدولة 🌐 - اختر -

اسم الجامعة 🏛 اسم الجامعة

اسم التخصص 📄 تخصص

الدرجة العلمية 🎓 - اختر -

بحث متقدم 📄 بحث

أمریکا  
بريطانيا  
كندا  
استراليا  
أذربيجان  
ألمانيا

[www.ru.moe.gov.sa/Search](https://www.ru.moe.gov.sa/Search)

## Application deadline

- **Check your program of interest deadline website.**
- **Be prepared as you might need time to finalise the requirement.**

## Application requirements

- Entry exams:
  - GRE: [www.ets.org/gre/](http://www.ets.org/gre/)
    - Verbal Reasoning
    - Quantitative Reasoning
    - Analytical Writing
  - TOEFL: [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl) (American)
    - Combine listening, reading, speaking and writing skills to perform academic tasks.
  - IELTS: [www.ielts.britishcouncil.org/](http://www.ielts.britishcouncil.org/) (British)

Don't forget to check the **required score** as it differs between different programs.

# TOEFL

[www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)

- 990 SR
- 4 hour exam
- Several sources
- Viable for 2 years

Don't forget to check the **required score** as it differs between different programs.

# IELTS

[www.ielts.britishcouncil.org/saudiarabia](http://www.ielts.britishcouncil.org/saudiarabia)

- 1000 SR
- 4 hours exam
- IELTS buddy (website) is a good source
- Works for 2 years

Don't forget to check the **required score** as it differs between different programs.



## Certification / Licensure

- Physician:
  - ECFMG (US) [www.ecfmg.org](http://www.ecfmg.org)
  - MCC (Canada) [www.mcc.ca](http://www.mcc.ca)
- Other medical and health specialities:
  - WES (North America) [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)

WES



## Welcome to World Education Services

WES is a non-profit organization that provides research about international education and trends and offers expert credential evaluation services.

**For Students**  
Obtain trusted credential evaluations and more →

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Recruit global talent with confidence →

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**Free WES Tools and Resources**

[WES Degree Equivalency](#)

[WES iGPA Calculator](#)

[Business School Finder](#)

### News and Updates

[WES Report - "Steps to Success: Integrating Immigrant Professionals in the U.S."](#)  
[Read the Latest Edition of World Education News and Reviews](#)

### More Services

[Global Talent Bridge](#)  
[Research and Consulting](#)  
[WES Student Advisor](#)

WES

Provides credential evaluations for international students in north American programs by:

- WES **Free Degree Equivalency**:
  - Online tool that shows how university degrees earned in other countries compare to U.S. or Canadian degrees.
- WES **International Credential Advantage Package (ICAP)**:
  - Sends verified transcripts and an evaluation report to academic institutions in one package.
- WES **International Grade Point Average (IGPA) Calculator**:
  - Free online tool that calculates international grades from over 140 countries into the 4.0 GPA scale commonly used in the U.S

[www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)

How?

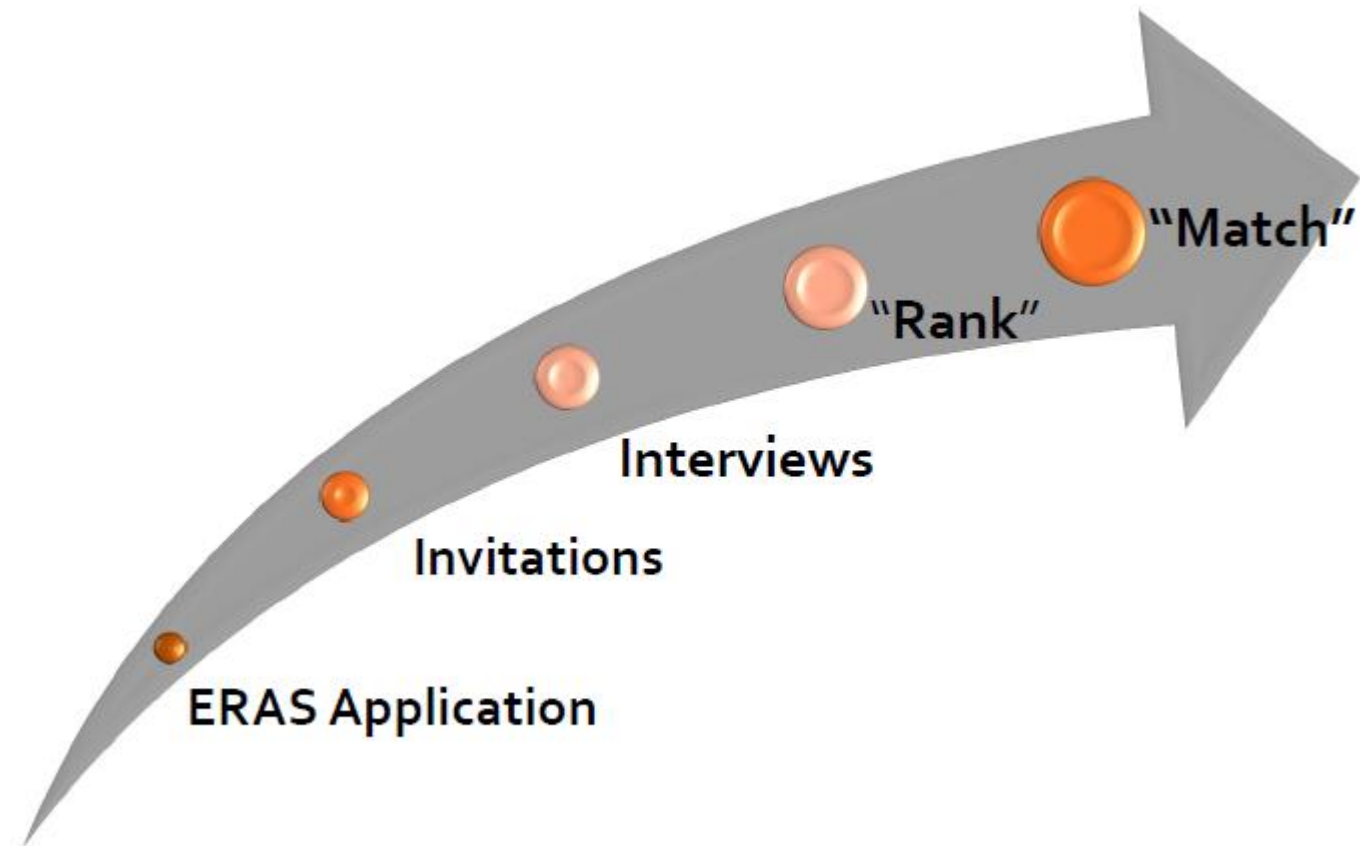
## How to Get a WES Credential Evaluation



[www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)

# Certification / Licensure "Physician"

- US: [www.ecfm.org](http://www.ecfm.org)
  - Graduate from a U.S. accredited academic program.
  - Pass USMLEs: I, II, III.



# USMLE Timeline for IMGs

1

• 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Med School

2K

• 6<sup>th</sup> Year Med School

2CS

• 6<sup>th</sup> Year Med School

3

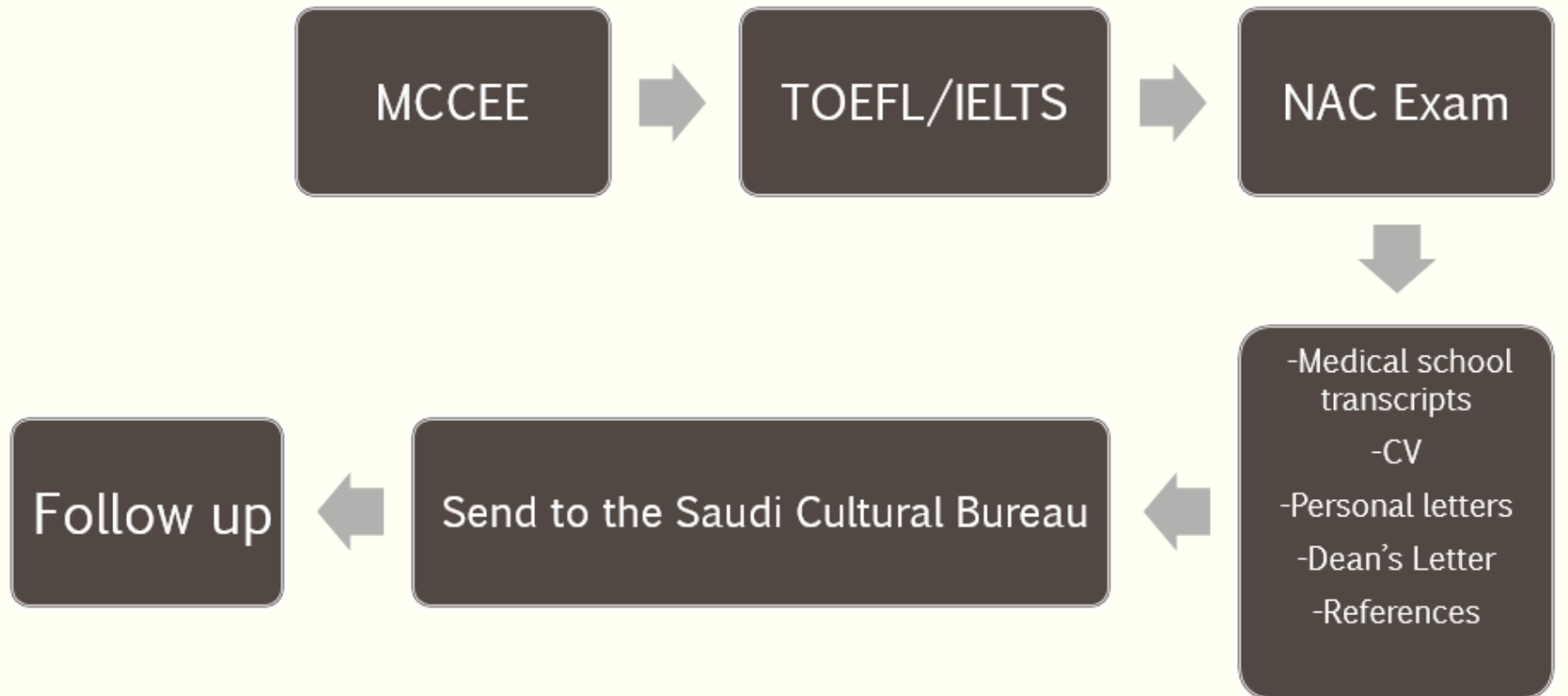
• ECFMG Certification

3

• 2<sup>nd</sup> Year of Residency

- Canada: [www.mcc.ca](http://www.mcc.ca)
  - Graduate from a Canadian accredited academic program.
  - Pass MCCEE and/or NAC Exam

## Certification / Licensure “Physician”

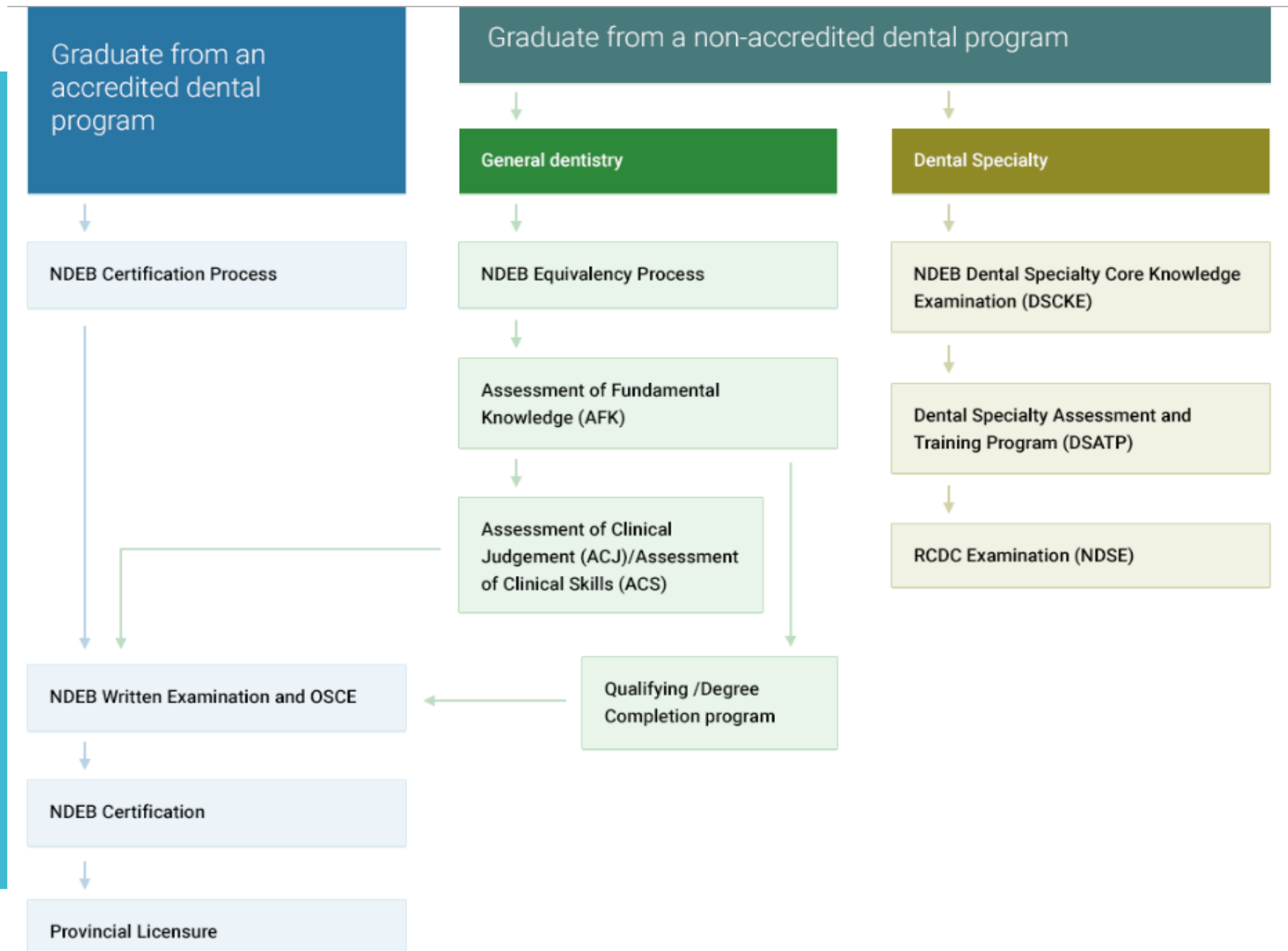


## Certification / Licensure “Dentists”

- **US:** [www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org) & [www.ada.org/en](http://www.ada.org/en)
  - Graduate from a U.S. accredited academic program.
  - Dental schools that offer advanced standing programs for foreign-trained dentists:  
[www.adea.org/dental\\_education\\_pathways/CAAPID/Pages/CAAPIDDirectory.aspx](http://www.adea.org/dental_education_pathways/CAAPID/Pages/CAAPIDDirectory.aspx)
  - Pass the National Board Dental Examinations (NBDE) Part I.  
[www.ada.org/en/jcnde/examinations](http://www.ada.org/en/jcnde/examinations)
- **Canada:** [www.ndeb.ca/en](http://www.ndeb.ca/en)



# Certification / Licensure "Dentists" Canada



## Certification / Licensure “Pharmacists”

- US: [www.nabp.net](http://www.nabp.net)
  - Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee (FPGEC) Certification: [www.nabp.net/programs/examination/fpgec](http://www.nabp.net/programs/examination/fpgec)
  - Pass NAPLEX exam: [www.nabp.net/programs/examination/naplex](http://www.nabp.net/programs/examination/naplex)
  - Complete extra hours of clinical training, and pass other board examinations.
- Canada: [www.pebc.ca](http://www.pebc.ca)
  - 3 steps to achieving PEBC pharmacist certification:
    1. Document evaluation
    2. The Pharmacist Evaluating Examination
    3. The Pharmacist Qualifying Examination, Part I (MCQ) & Part II (OSCE)

# Certification / Licensure “Nurses”

- US:
  - Registered Nurse (RN) & Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN):
    - Some states require you to complete the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) Certification program. [www.cgfns.org](http://www.cgfns.org)
    - Pass the national board examination NCLEX. [www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm](http://www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm)
    - In some cases, you might be required to have your foreign credentials verified by a specific agency. [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org)
- Canada: [www.nnas.ca](http://www.nnas.ca)
  - Bridging for Internationally Educated Nurses (BIEN) programs in multiple colleges please check your program requirements

# Certification / Licensure “Physical Therapists”

- US: [www.pt.fsbpt.net](http://www.pt.fsbpt.net)
  - Academic requirements
  - Pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE): [www.fsbpt.org/ExamCandidates/NationalExam\(NPTE\).aspx](http://www.fsbpt.org/ExamCandidates/NationalExam(NPTE).aspx)
  - Separate state exam
- Canada: [www.physiotherapy.ca](http://www.physiotherapy.ca)
  - To study PGME in physiotherapy you have to pass specific program requirements
  - To practice:
    - Pass the Physiotherapy Competency Examination (PCE): [www.alliancept.org/exams\\_candidates\\_overview.php](http://www.alliancept.org/exams_candidates_overview.php)
    - Check for other province specific requirement: [www.physiotherapy.ca/About-Physiotherapy/Working-in-Canada?lang=en-ca](http://www.physiotherapy.ca/About-Physiotherapy/Working-in-Canada?lang=en-ca)

## Certification / Licensure “Occupational Therapist”

- US: [www.nbcot.org](http://www.nbcot.org)
  - Satisfying academic requirements
  - Pass the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).  
[www.nbcot.org/international-candidates](http://www.nbcot.org/international-candidates)
  - Additional requirements, such as minimum hours of clinical training, may apply in some states.  
[www.nbcot.org/state-license-info](http://www.nbcot.org/state-license-info)
- Canada: [www.caot.ca](http://www.caot.ca)
  - Apply to the **Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO)**: [www.acotro-acore.org](http://www.acotro-acore.org)
  - Complete a new assessment process called the Substantial Equivalency Assessment System (**SEAS**): [www.acotro-acore.org/seas-introduction](http://www.acotro-acore.org/seas-introduction)

Certification /  
Licensure  
“Clinical  
Laboratory  
Scientist and  
Medical  
Technologist”

- US:
  - Some states do not require a license to practice, but in those cases employers will require a professional certification from a private association as a condition of employment.
  - The following associations grant certifications: American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) and American Medical Technologists (AMT). [www.ascp.org/Board-of-Certification/GetCertified](http://www.ascp.org/Board-of-Certification/GetCertified) & [www.americanmedtech.org/default.aspx](http://www.americanmedtech.org/default.aspx)
- Canada: [www.csmls.org](http://www.csmls.org)
  - Prior Learning Assessment: [www.csmls.org/Certification/Prior-Learning-Assessment/Types-of-PLA.aspx](http://www.csmls.org/Certification/Prior-Learning-Assessment/Types-of-PLA.aspx)

# Statement of purpose (SoP)

- Make your application **well written** and **easy to read**:
  - ✓ Grammar
  - ✓ Transitions
  - ✓ Spelling
- Keep your SoP to a **reasonable length**.
- Show **Do NOT** tell
- Convey a **sense of focus** and **excitement**.
- Emphasize your **ability and potential** for **creativity**
- **Integration**
- **Research**
- **Synthesis**
- Get your application in **early**.
- Check for **specific requirement** for your program of interest

# Curriculum Vitae

- Minimum 2-3 pages:
  - Candidate name and complete up to date contact info
  - Personal info:
    - Date of birth
    - Citizenship
  - Educational history:
    - Diplomas
    - Degrees
    - Certifications
  - Professional work history and qualifications:
    - Presented in chronological order
  - Professional memberships and accomplishments
    - Publications
    - Awards



# Resume

- **One page maximum = summary**
  - Objective
  - Summary of Skills
  - Work Experience
  - Education
  - References

## Letter of Recommendations (LoR)

- **Some universities:**
  - Will contact your references directly, OR
  - Will provide a form to be filled by the reference and to be sent directly to the institution of interest, OR
  - Will ask you to provide a sealed LoR
- **Be aware of it to notify the reference to reply back asap to avoid any delays.**

## What Increase your Chances for a position ?

- **Scores in exams**
- **Experience**
- **Letter of recommendation**
- **Dean's Letter**
- **Published Research**
- **Masters degree and Research Fellowship**
- **Attractive CV (including: honors, GPA, and volunteer work)**
- **Performance in Interview**

## Tips for interview

- Interview = **"sell"** yourself → learn how to promote your skills and personality to the program director.
- **Dress and act** in a manner that exudes confidence and **professionalism**.
  - **Avoid** using overpowering perfumes or colognes
- **Arrive rested and early;** leave plenty of time to get to the interview
- **RELAX** and be yourself
- **Study your CV & bring extra copies**
- **Prepare yourself** for the interview
  - **Research** the program very well
  - Prepare **smart questions** about the program
- **Practice ..practice.. practice**
  - Try a **mock interview; record it & practice out loud**



Remember: **First impression is the last impression** so be smart!

## During the Interview

- Shake hands
- Maintain eye contact
- Remember the interviewer's name
- Be concise and coherent
- Be honest, speak clearly, and take your time in answering questions
- It's perfectly acceptable to pause for a moment to think through your answer before beginning
- Be sure you are **expressing enthusiasm**

## Follow up

- Following up after the interview is the **final step of the interview process**
- **Thank you notes/emails:**
  - Thank the interviewer for their time, and their consideration
  - When you write them, make sure to be very specific about what makes you a great candidate.
  - Include specific comments from the interview

Please  
remember this  
checklist!

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  - ✓ CV or resume
  - ✓ Have you references and recommendation letters ready

**For more  
information**

If you would like more information on the subject, please join me at the SIMEC Conference on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

<http://simec2016.org/>



**Please join our Vice Rector of Health Affairs, Dr. Samar Alsaggaf, at the SIMEC 2016 Conference where she will be conducting a workshop titled**

**"Residency in the United States"**

For more information on how to register for SIMEC 2016 Conference, please visit <http://simec2016.org/>

جامعة الفيصل  
ALFAISAL UNIVERSITY

**Date: April 9, 2016**

**Time: 8am - 12pm**





وقول كل ذي علم عليم



وزارة التعليم العالي  
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION



جامعة الأميرة نورة بنت عبد الرحمن  
Princess Nora Bint Abdul Rahman University

