

Every year, Canadian faculties of medicine welcome international medical graduates who hold a visa permitting temporary employment as a postgraduate trainee. Many are classified as “fellows” since they are not seeking to fulfill Canadian licensure certification requirements. The vast majority return to their home country that funded their training in Canada.

In 2014/15, there were 2,200 visa trainees across all medical schools except the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and University of Saskatchewan. The faculty with the largest number was University of Toronto with 833 (38% of all visas trainees) followed by McGill with 337. The country that has funded by far the most trainees in any given year is Saudi Arabia but the top five countries have shifted a bit over time.

Top five countries of medical degree for visas trainees in Canada, selected years

1995/96	2000/01	2005/06	2010/11	2014/15
Saudi Arabia (271)	Saudi Arabia (409)	Saudi Arabia (616)	Saudi Arabia (648)	Saudi Arabia (742)
U.S.A. (87)	U.K. (95)	India (119)	India (134)	India (184)
U.K. (69)	Kuwait (90)	Libya (119)	U.K. (118)	U.K. (113)
Kuwait (40)	Libya (65)	Ireland (107)	Australia (91)	Oman (87)
Ireland (38)	Ireland (64)	Kuwait (106)	Ireland (85)	Ireland (86)

Overall, the number of visa trainees has more than doubled from a total of 853 in 1995 to 2200 in 2014 (158% increase). The number from Saudi Arabia has more than doubled and India has seen even large increases growing from only 21 in 1995 to 184 by 2014, an almost 9 fold increase. They are second only to Saudi Arabia in terms of overall numbers.

Over 70% of visa trainees are considered fellows with the remaining assigned to specific rank levels within the training programs.

Visa trainees are spread across 77 different specialties and subspecialties. The largest single specialty in 2014 was Cardiology with 143 visa trainees followed by orthopedic surgery (127), anesthesiology (120), diagnostic radiology (115) and internal medicine rounded off the top five at 102 trainees.

**Country of origin for visa trainees in 2014/15
excluding SAUDI ARABIA**

