

# What are the true numbers of Canadians Studying Medicine Abroad (CSAs)?

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## Introduction

2015 research\* revealed a discrepancy between the numbers of CSAs gathered by the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG, USA). Further investigation revealed differences in defining a CSA:

- MCC: Country of birth
- ECFMG: Citizenship at entry into medical school

The 2016 Canadian Census indicates that **24%** of immigrants to Canada are under 20. Thus, the MCC definition misses many Canadians born abroad who moved to Canada as children.

Therefore, as of 2016, the MCC introduced a demographic question for every International Medical Graduate (IMG) registering for an examination:

*In an effort to further improve the precision of the linking process and to collect more accurate data to analyze and monitor demographics for business sustainability, we implemented the following question in the [physiciansapply.ca](http://physiciansapply.ca) candidate portal for non-CMGs and students at time of account creation and registration for each exam beginning Sept. 21, 2016:*

*Were you a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada at the time of entry into medical school outside of Canada?*

*Yes/No*

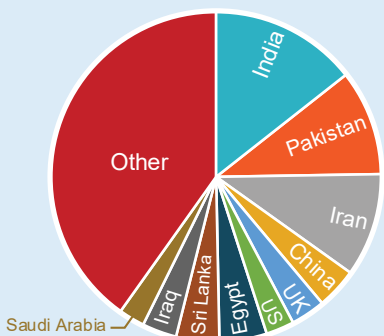
## EE based results

Results based on the **MCC Evaluation Examination (MCCEE)**, 2017 data:

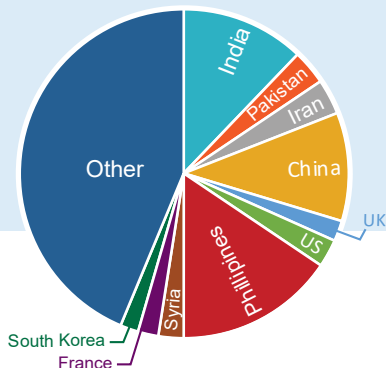
The MCCEE is a multiple-choice question (MCQ) exam geared towards IMGs wishing to move and practice medicine in Canada. It is offered 5 times/yr in over 80 countries.

3118 examinees	1020	33%	answered "yes"
	1743	56%	answered "no"
	355	11%	did not answer (registered prior to fall 2016)
1020 answered "yes"	547	54%	born in Canada
	473	46%	born abroad

### CSA – 10 top countries by birth



### Immigrants to Canada – 10 top countries



## NAC based results

Results based on the **National Assessment Collaboration (NAC)** exam, 2017 data:

The NAC exam is an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) geared towards IMGs wishing to enter residency in Canada. It is offered 2 times/yr in Canada.

767 in Canada	50.5%	answered "yes"	1520 examinees
	49.5%	answered "no"	
450 answered "yes"	59%	born in Canada	
	317	41%	born abroad

### Comparison of country of medical degree among 3 different IMG groups

CSA born in Canada	#	CSA born abroad	#	Traditional IMG	#
Ireland	137	Ireland	44	Iran	137
Saba	37	Saba	31	Nigeria	80
Saint Kitts and Nevis	36	Saint Kitts and Nevis	30	Pakistan	76
Grenada	35	Poland	15	Egypt	69
UK	30	UK	14	India	58
Poland	27	Australia	14	Bangladesh	34
Australia	23	Iran	14	Iraq	21
Dominica	20	Grenada	13	Philippines	19
Anguilla	11	Dominica	13	Syria	17
Sint Maarten	11	Pakistan	12	Brazil	15

## Conclusion

- The popularity of studying medicine abroad seems to stay constant
  - ▶ Although a significant overlap of the country of the medical degree between CSAs born in Canada and CSAs born abroad, there is some overlap between CSA born abroad and traditional IMGs
- Challenge now and ahead: limited number of Canadian residency positions

\*Reference: Bartman I., Boulet J., Qin S. "Canadians Studying Abroad (CSAs) – Their Journey into the Canadian and American Medical Systems"