

# INFO SHEET FOR INTERNATIONAL DENTAL GRADUATES SEEKING CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE IN CANADA

For international dental graduates, the first step in seeking licensure to practice dentistry in Canada is to determine if your dental program is accredited or non-accredited.

The [Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada \(CDAC\)](#) is responsible for accrediting dental, dental hygiene and dental assisting education programs. General dentistry programs accredited by the following organizations are considered accredited for the purpose of certification in Canada:

- The [Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada \(CDAC\)](#)
- The [American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation \(CODA\)](#)
- The [Australian Dental Council \(ADC\)](#) – (only graduates after March 31, 2010)
- The [Dental Council of New Zealand \(DCNZ\)](#) – (only graduates after December 14, 2011)
- The [Irish Dental Council](#) – (only graduates after December 5, 2012)

## 1. International Graduates of Accredited Programs

Graduates of accredited dental programs must successfully complete the [National Dental Examining Board of Canada's \(NDEB\)](#) Certification Process. This process includes:

- **Completing the Virtual OSCE\***  
A 200-question examination assessing the problem-solving and critical decision-making skills required of Canadian dentists. As of March 2023, the virtual format has replaced the previous written examination. More details about the exam content, format, and fees can be found [here](#).
- **Submitting Proof of Graduation**  
An original official transcript of marks must be sent directly to the NDEB in a sealed envelope, including the date the degree was conferred. More details about submitting proof of graduation can be found [here](#).

Once NDEB certified, you must apply for a license with the provincial dental regulatory authority, the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO), to practice dentistry in Ontario. More information about registering with the RCDSO as an international applicant can be found [here](#).

## 2. International Graduates of Non-Accredited Programs

According to the NDEB, individuals who hold a DDS/DMD/BDS from a non-accredited program must follow one of two pathways:

### Pathway 1: The NDEB Equivalency Process

The NDEB offers an entry-to-practice Equivalency Process for graduates of non-accredited dental programs, which includes three examinations. Successful completion of the examinations allows you to move on to the next step, the NDEB Certification Process. More information about the NDEB Equivalency process, including how to apply, examination dates and locations, and associated fees can be found [here](#).

### Pathway 2: An accredited Qualifying/Degree Completion Program

Accredited Qualifying and Degree Completion Programs are offered by Faculties of Dentistry in Canada and are designed to familiarize international dental graduates with dental practice in Canada. Upon successful completion of a Qualifying or Degree Completion Program, you are eligible to participate in the NDEB Certification Process.

Across Canada, there are a number of [accredited programs](#) offered at various educational institutions. In the province of Ontario, there are two programs intended for graduates of non-accredited dental programs:

- **The University of Toronto** offers the [International Dentist Advanced Placement Program \(IDAPP\)](#), a six-month preparatory program in which successful completion admits IDAPP students into the third year of the Doctor of Dental Surgery Program.
- **Western University** offers the [Internationally Trained Dentist Program \(ITD\)](#), a three-year program in which ITD students join the 2nd year class of the Doctor of Dental Surgery program.

## After NDEB Certification

Following NDEB certification, you must apply for registration with the RCDSO to practice dentistry in Ontario. Applicants who practiced dentistry or are licensed to practice dentistry in another country must request a Certificate of Standing as part of the application process. The Certificate of Standing must be completed by the regulatory authority of the dentistry profession for each jurisdiction where you practiced or were granted the right to practice dentistry.

You can review the RCDSO's webpages on the [Application Process](#) and [What You Need to Apply](#) for further information.

## Become an Ontario Dental Association Member

The ODA is here to help you adapt to practicing in Ontario. We offer [resources and support](#) that will help you settle into your profession and succeed. Contact the ODA and [become a member](#).