

REAP Specialty Training Bursary Program

Guidelines and Policies

The Specialty Training Bursary Program provides funding to rurally-bound medical specialty residents or rural physicians who are completing focused postgraduate training that will lead to certification with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

A one-year full-time return of service requirement is attached to each year of funding received¹. Preference will be given to specialties identified as being “in need” in rural communities in BC.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Residents or rural physicians are eligible to apply if they:

- are in the final two years of a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada residency program and;
- have been accepted to a specialty position by a hospital and health authority included in the Rural Subsidiary Agreement (RSA) pending completion of the residency program.

Bursary funding is only available while the applicant is pursuing the residency program.

AWARD DETAILS

Each award is \$25,000. Eligible applicants may be eligible for up to two years of bursary funding to a maximum of \$50,000. Reapplication is required to be considered for the second year of funding and all eligibility requirements must be met at the time of reapplication.

Canada Customs and Revenue consider bursary funds taxable income.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The Specialty Training Bursary Application along with all the required supporting documents must be submitted through the [online application platform](#) by 11:59 pm on the application deadline. Incomplete applications and applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Along with the online application, you must upload:

1. A personal statement explaining how you see yourself supporting the rural medical community in which you intend to practice and why you believe you are deserving of the bursary.
2. A resume of work, academic and community experience including an outline of studies including special courses or training.
3. A letter of support from your current Residency Program Director confirming that you are in good standing in the training program and are expected to complete training on schedule.
4. A letter of employment, endorsed by the Health Authority, to a position in a specialty department of a hospital included in the RSA.
5. A confirmation that you have accepted the offer of employment.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application deadline is June 30. Applications will be accepted one month prior to the application deadline. Selection will be announced by September 1.

SELECTION PROCESS

The REAP Directors will review and select the successful candidates. Following selection, successful applicants will be notified by email. The REAP office will distribute a bursary agreement to the selected applicants. The agreement must be signed and submitted electronically to the REAP office before the payment can be made.

RETURN-OF-SERVICE COMMITMENT

Upon completion of the medical training, as specified in the bursary agreement, recipients are required to provide a specified period of service in rural British

Columbia as stipulated in their bursary agreement. Total return-of-service time is calculated based on the following:

- One year (12 months) of service in an RSA-designated rural community for each year of funding.

Bursary recipients must notify the REAP program office of their practice location and the date they intend to commence Practice. This will enable accurate detailing of credit for the return-of-service commitment.

Upon completing the necessary requirements to practice in their area of specialty, recipients will be provided a 90-day period in which to establish a medical practice and full-time residency in the RSA community in which they have a position.

DEFERMENTS

If a bursary recipient wishes to seek permission to defer their service commitment, a request must be submitted in writing to the Rural Joint Standing Committee (JSC), providing full details, at least 6 months prior to the commencement of the proposed deferment.

Deferments would be considered for issues such as the need for additional training, serious family illness, death or maternity.

All requests for deferrals will be adjudicated by the JSC and these decisions will be communicated, in writing, to the bursary recipient.

INABILITY TO ESTABLISH PRACTICE

In the event that the recipient is, through no fault of his/her own, unable to establish practice arrangements as required by the bursary agreement, but has demonstrated due diligence in attempting to do so to the satisfaction of the JSC, the recipient may apply, in writing, to the JSC to be released from their service and repayment commitments.

DEFAULT PROVISIONS

Recipients who fail to complete their service commitment mid-term will be required to repay a proportionate percentage of their bursary funds to the time remaining. For example, if the service commitment ends following one year of service, the recipient must repay one year or \$25,000. The terms will be specified in the recipient's promissory note (included with the contract). Failure to complete the residency program for academic reasons will necessitate repayment of all bursary funds.

MONITORING AND VERIFICATION OF SERVICE

Once the recipient has set up practice in an approved community, a quarterly follow-up will be made. This follow-up procedure is made through the REAP office.

RELOCATION APPEALS MECHANISM

Recipients wishing to move to another RSA community during the period of their return-of-service contract may write to the JSC indicating their desire to move. Approvals will be made at the discretion of the JSC.

QUESTIONS

Email: REAP.Students@ubc.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about REAP, please visit: <https://rccbc.ca/our-work/reap/>

For the purpose of this application, rural communities in British Columbia are those included in the Rural Subsidiary Agreement (RSA). For a list of RSA Communities, please [click here](#).

¹ Full-time is defined as practicing a minimum of nine months of the year and billing greater than \$50,000 per year (fee-for-service and alternate payments).