



Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators

Alliance canadienne des organismes de réglementation de la physiothérapie

Context of Physiotherapy Practice in Canada List of Alternatives

The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (The Alliance) assesses the educational credentials and qualifications (a process called Credentialing) of physiotherapists educated outside Canada to determine whether their education and qualifications are substantially equivalent to that of a Canadian-educated physiotherapist.

One of the most important features of education in a health profession is learning about the context in which the profession is practiced. Discussions we have had with credentialing applicants confirms the importance of being aware of and understanding practice in this country.

When we assess your educational credentials and qualifications, we also assess your knowledge of the Canadian health care system and the role of the physiotherapist within it.

The Alliance realizes that it is not possible for anyone educated outside of Canada to have this knowledge. All applicants educated outside of Canada must therefore complete a course that includes the context of physiotherapy practice within the Canadian health care system through a structured approach (i.e., the course must include a formal assessment process).

What is acceptable proof of knowledge about the Context of Physiotherapy Practice within the Canadian Health Care System?

To meet this requirement, you must successfully complete a course. The Alliance will endorse courses that include a valid method of assessment.

Options

There are a number of courses which have been developed already that The Alliance has approved.

You may meet this requirement through one of the following Options:

Option 1

If you completed any university-level education in Canada that reflects the need for autonomous, safe, effective and ethical practice within the Canadian health context, you may have fulfilled the criterion. Ask your school to send documentation and verification¹ of this education to our office for review and consideration.

For example, if you completed a course in Canadian Health Care System, we will review the content of the course and let you know if you need to complete any additional courses. If the course you completed did not have any content related to the role of physiotherapist in the Canadian health care system, we may ask you to take a different course.

Option 2

Contact a bridging program approved by The Alliance to ask if you can apply for a course that includes content in this area. The Alliance has approved the course offered through the Ontario Internationally Educated Physiotherapists Bridging Program (OIEPB) delivered by the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Toronto. Questions about admission or the Bridging Program should be directed to iept@utoronto.ca or PT Reception at [416-946-8641](tel:416-946-8641).

¹ Documentation includes course descriptions. Verification includes official transcripts.

If OIEPB allows you to register for a course in this area and you successfully complete the course, then you will meet our requirement. You have to ask the OIEPB to send your transcripts to our office so we can verify that you have successfully completed this criterion.

Option 3

Apply to the Thompson Rivers University in Burnaby, British Columbia, to fulfill this criterion. Thompson Rivers University is a division of Open Learning Agency, and it provides post-secondary students with distance learning, no matter where they live. Appendix A lists the courses and contact information for this option. The course offered through this university is a web-based course, so you can complete this course within Canada or outside of Canada. If you choose this option, you must send us the enclosed option form with Option 3 selected and we will send a referral letter to the university on your behalf. Once you have completed the course, you must arrange for the university to send your transcripts to our office.

Option 4

Contact one of the 14 Canadian universities that offer accredited physiotherapy programs and ask for information on their course(s), registration processes and requirements. Appendix A lists all of the pre-approved courses. Many other accredited physiotherapy programs in Canada offer courses on the Canadian health care system. To find out if a university not on this list offers a similar course, contact the university and ask them if they have a course relating to the Context of Physiotherapy Practice in Canada. You are responsible for finding other courses. If you choose a course that is not on the list, **we must approve it before you register in the course.** You must send us the course description and the name and address of the institution offering the course(s). We will review the course(s) and the recognition status of the institution you want to attend and will let you know if the course is adequate and acceptable before you register. Once you have completed a pre-approved course you must arrange for the institution to send your transcripts to our office so we can verify that you have successfully completed this criterion.

Option 5

Apply to any accredited or recognized university in Canada and take at least one² credit course that includes content on the Canadian health care system. Appendix A lists all pre-approved courses. Many other universities offer courses on the Canadian health care system. You are responsible for finding other courses. If you choose a course that is not on the list, **we must approve it before you register in the course.** You must send us the course description and the name and address of the institution offering the course(s). We will review the course(s) and the recognition status of the institution you want to attend and will let you know if the course is adequate and acceptable before you register. Once you have completed a pre-approved course you must arrange for the institution to send your transcripts to our office.

Option 6

Apply to the University of Toronto to fulfill this criterion. The University of Toronto offers two courses called "Orientation Course Canadian Health Care System, Culture and Context for Internationally Educated Healthcare Professionals" OR "Physiotherapy Practice within the Canadian Health Care Context. Either 'one' of these courses are acceptable

² You may need to take two courses to fulfill this requirement. Contact your Credentialing Officer (if you have received your assessment results) or our Client Services Coordinator (if you have not received your assessment results) to confirm the number of courses you need to complete

Choosing an Option:

Please contact the following person, if you have questions before you choose your option.

Credentialing Officer (only if you **have received** your assessment results)

- Shereen Mir-Jabbar - A- H email contact: smjabbar@alliancept.org
- Shabnam Sarwary - I - P email contact: ssarwary@alliancept.org
- Mary Thibodeau - Q- Z email contact: MThibodeau@alliancept.org

Client Services Coordinator (if you **have not** received your assessment results)

- Lindsay Cooper - A - Z email contact: csc@alliancept.org

After you decide how you want to meet this requirement, complete the attached Option Form and send it to our office.

APPENDIX A (Continued)

Notes

- The name and code number of any of the courses listed above may change. If the course name or number does not match the courses you find when you apply, you must contact us and ask for written pre-approval before you enrol so that we can confirm you are taking the correct course.
- The Alliance has a formal agreement with Thompson Rivers University. We can refer applicants to that institution for continuing education courses. However, we do not have formal agreements with the other universities listed. You are responsible for contacting the admissions offices of other universities to get information on registration procedures and requirements.
- The term "pre-approved" does not mean that the university must admit you into the course. It means that we have reviewed the course content and determined that it is adequate and acceptable for fulfilling this criterion. Therefore, the university is not obligated to enrol you in the program. You must meet the admission requirements set by the university in order to enrol.
- Even if you meet all other admission requirements set by the university, the admission requirements may include pre-requisite courses that you must complete before you can enrol in the courses listed above.



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Context of Physiotherapy Practice in Canada Option Form

Please put a checkmark (✓) beside the option you have chosen for completing the Context of Physiotherapy Practice in Canada requirement. Sign and date this form and return it to the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (The Alliance) office.

Option 1 – University-level education in Canada

- I have asked my school to send documentation and verification¹ of my relevant education to The Alliance office.

Option 2 – Course delivered by the Ontario Internationally Educated Physiotherapists Bridging (OIEPTB) program – The Department of Physical Therapy, University of Toronto.

I want to complete the following course:

- Physiotherapy Practice within the Canadian Health Care Context

Once I have completed this course I will ask the University of Toronto to send my transcript / Certificate of Successful Completion to The Alliance office.

Option 3 – Courses at Thompson Rivers University in Burnaby, British Columbia

- Please send a referral letter to Thompson Rivers University on my behalf, as I want to complete a course there to meet this requirement. Once I have completed this course, I will arrange for Thompson Rivers University to send my transcripts to The Alliance office.

Option 4 – Course(s) at one of the 14 accredited Canadian physiotherapy programs

- I want to complete the following course(s):

At _____

The course is listed on the pre-approved courses in Appendix A. I will ask the university to send my transcripts to The Alliance office.

- The course is not on the list of pre-approved courses in Appendix A. I have attached the course description for The Alliance review. I will not register for this course until I have received written approval from The Alliance. Once I have completed the course, I will ask the institution to send my transcripts to The Alliance office.

Option 5 – Courses in another recognized university in Canada

- I want to complete the following course(s):

At _____

¹ Documentation includes course descriptions. Verification includes original transcripts.

The course is listed on the pre-approved courses in Appendix A. I will ask the university to send my transcripts to The Alliance office.

- I want to complete a course that is not on the pre-approved list (Appendix A). I have attached a course description for The Alliance review. I will not register in this course until I have received written approval from The Alliance. Once I have completed the course, I will ask the institution to send my transcripts / Certificate of Successful Completion to The Alliance office.

Option 6 – Courses centrally administered by the University of Toronto –

I want to complete the following course at the University of Toronto, approved by The Alliance:

- Orientation to Canadian Health care Systems, Culture and Context for Internationally Educated Health care Professionals.

PIN: _____	
_____	_____
Last Name, First Name	Date
Signature: _____	