STAY AND STUDY IN WESTERN CANADA

Introducing a pilot project for fall 2019 entry in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine’s Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program.
The Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) was founded in 1963 by the four western Canadian provinces — British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The annual number of students admitted to the WCVM’s Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program is outlined in the Interprovincial Agreement (IPA) — a contract between the WCVM and the western provinces.

In October 2017, the Province of Alberta announced its withdrawal from the Interprovincial Agreement. This decision means the college will no longer allocate 20 seats per year to Alberta residents after the 2019-20 academic year.*

The loss of funding from the Government of Alberta is causing significant financial challenges for the WCVM, and the veterinary college must consider new funding options. Through a pilot project for fall 2019 entry, the WCVM will offer five seats in the college’s DVM program that are not supported by the Interprovincial Agreement. Tuition rates for students admitted through this pilot project will be comparable to rates paid by Canadians who attend international veterinary schools.

*The Province of Alberta will continue subsidizing Alberta students who are admitted through IPA-supported seats in 2019-20 for all four years of the DVM program.
Why is WCVM WORTH IT?
The top five reasons why the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program is worth the cost.

1. **WORLD-CLASS DVM PROGRAM**
   The WCVM offers western Canadians an internationally-recognized veterinary education program at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) — right in your own region. Our graduates are ready for a broad spectrum of career areas — companion animals, food animals, equine, wildlife, public service, research and industry. Our external partnerships and exchange programs further expand the opportunities available to students.

2. **TOP STUDENTS**
   A recent analysis of the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) scores shows that our students are among the top 22nd percentile of DVM graduates worldwide (based on those schools participating in the NAVLE). All veterinary graduates must pass this exam before they can be licensed to practise in North America.

3. **TECHNOLOGY AND TALENT**
   Our veterinary students have exposure to the most advanced animal health technologies, including the latest in medical imaging equipment for large and small animals, a linear accelerator for pet radiation therapy and a new clinical simulation centre. Our skilled team of faculty and staff have expertise in all aspects of biomedical and veterinary sciences.

4. **STUDENT SUPPORT**
   Each year, the WCVM distributes over $350,000 in academic awards to students for excellence in the veterinary program, leadership and other related technical and non-technical skills.

5. **IDEAL LOCATION**
   Our geographical position gives us access to a phenomenal and varied caseload that is ideal for educating veterinary students, clinical interns and residents. The WCVM’s facilities have undergone extensive renovations, and we can offer veterinary students a comprehensive education at one site without the need for additional travel costs.

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**Definition of TERMS**

**IPA**
Interprovincial Agreement — a contract between the four western provinces and the WCVM.

**Non-IPA seat or pilot seat**
A student seat in the DVM program that’s not supported by the Interprovincial Agreement (five seats available for 2019 entry).

**IPA seat**
A student seat in the DVM program that’s supported by one of the four western provinces through the college’s Interprovincial Agreement (78 seats available for 2019 entry).
Q. How many non-IPA seats are there?
Five non-IPA seats will be available for fall 2019 entry. Non-IPA seats are outside of the 78 provincially-subsidized seats allocated through the college’s Interprovincial Agreement.

Q. Who is eligible to apply for the non-IPA seats?
Applicants must meet the WCVM’s current residency and admission requirements (outlined on the college’s admissions website) to be eligible for consideration of a non-IPA seat. In addition, only applicants who applied for fall 2019 entry using the WCVM online application (application deadline of December 1, 2018) are eligible for this pilot program.

Q. How much is tuition if I’m admitted through a non-IPA seat?
Students admitted through the non-IPA seats must pay the standard WCVM tuition and fees (about $11,000 per year) plus an additional, non-IPA tuition of $50,000 per year. Total tuition costs are approximately $61,000 per year with equal payments due at the end of September and January. Tuition costs are subject to potential annual increases.

Q. What other costs do I need to budget for?
Saskatoon is a relatively affordable city. Dependent on your personal living/accommodation preferences, we estimate that students should be able to live on $15,000 to $20,000 annually.

Q. What would be the total cost of my DVM degree education at WCVM if I’m accepted through a non-IPA seat?
The total estimated cost for the four-year DVM program — including tuition and living expenses — is about $300,000 to $320,000.
Q. How do these tuition costs compare to other veterinary schools?

Thirteen accredited schools outside of the United States currently accept international students. That group includes two Canadian schools: the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph and the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island. Neither college accepts Canadian students outside of their respective province or region.

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) has published a cost comparison tool to help prospective veterinary students develop a financial plan for veterinary education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Course length (years)</th>
<th>Tuition + fees ($)*</th>
<th>Tuition + living expenses ($)*</th>
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<td>317,460</td>
<td>415,008</td>
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<td>315,348</td>
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<td>Ross University</td>
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<td>WCVM***</td>
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* All costs have been converted from U.S. to Canadian dollars using an exchange rate of 1.32. Information based on students graduating in 2017.
** These colleges do not accept Canadian students outside of their respective provinces/regions.
*** Expenses for WCVM are estimates and do not consider increased costs or inflation.

Q. How can students who are filling these non-subsidized seats finance their veterinary education?

Students may consider the following:

- **Personal loan or line of credit.** Many banks offer lending programs targeted at students who are enrolled in professional colleges such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and law.
- **Student loans** offered through their provincial governments.
Frequently asked QUESTIONS

Q. How do I apply for a non-IPA seat?
Applicants must log in to their WCVM applications and respond “Yes” in answer to “Do you want to be considered for fall 2019 admission through a non-IPA seat?” by January 31, 2019. Applicants who are not interested should indicate “No” on their application form. Applicants may change their response until January 31, 2019. After this date, no changes will be permitted.

If an applicant does not respond to the question, we will assume the student is declining interest in applying for a non-IPA seat.

Q. What is the admission/selection process for the non-IPA seats?
All applicants who indicate an interest in a non-IPA seat will be processed using the same requirements and selection criteria outlined on the WCVM admissions website. Interviewers will be blinded to any information on applicants who have elected to be considered for non-IPA seats. The following steps outline the process:

• Regardless of interest in a non-IPA seat, all applicants will be initially considered for an IPA seat.
• Selection for non-IPA seats will take place only after all IPA seats have been filled. The pool for non-IPA seats will be open, combining students from all provinces and territories.
• The WCVM will maintain a minimum 2:1 ratio of applicants interviewed to seats available for the non-IPA seats.

Note: A minimum interview score of 20/40 is required to be considered for admission to a non-IPA seat.

Q. What do I need to do if the WCVM offers me a non-IPA seat?
An applicant who is offered admission to the WCVM through a non-IPA seat must submit a $1,000 non-refundable deposit within seven days of notification of acceptance. This deposit will be credited toward first-year tuition once classes begin.

Q. What happens if a non-IPA seat is declined?
As we do for each provincial pool, the WCVM will maintain a wait list in case applicants who are offered admission to a non-IPA seat decide to decline.
Q. What happens if an applicant is on the wait list for an IPA seat and is also offered admission for a non-IPA seat?
If an applicant is offered acceptance for a non-IPA seat but is also placed on the waitlist for an IPA seat, the student can go ahead and accept the non-IPA seat. If an IPA seat becomes available in the student’s provincial pool, the student will move from the non-IPA seat to an IPA seat and be required to pay the standard WCVM tuition and fees only. The WCVM will then offer the vacated non-IPA seat to the next applicant on the non-IPA waitlist.

Q. Will admission through a non-IPA seat affect my education experience at the WCVM?
Being admitted through a non-IPA seat will have no impact on a student’s education experience at the WCVM or in the college’s DVM program. The status of applicants who are admitted through a non-IPA seat will be held confidentially within the WCVM Admissions and Student Services Offices. This information will not be shared with WCVM faculty or students.

Q. What is the plan for admission in 2020 and beyond?
A more permanent proposal for the WCVM’s fall 2020 entry has been approved to offer a maximum of 30 non-IPA seats to western Canadian, Canadian and international applicants. The college has not yet determined specific details about the timeline of expansion or the numbers of allocated seats in each group.

Q. Why would I be interested in this pilot program?
Until now, access to veterinary education in Canada has been restricted based on a student’s province of residency; each Canadian can only apply to one of the five Canadian veterinary schools according to the province or region in which they live. The only exception was in Alberta; between 2008 and 2019, Alberta residents could apply to both the WCVM and to the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Stay in Western Canada and achieve your dream of becoming a veterinarian at the WCVM — a veterinary college that has an international reputation for producing high-quality, practice-ready graduates.
Across Canada, admission to veterinary programs in all five schools is highly competitive. For example, the WCVM annually receives over 400 applications for 78 first-year seats, and unsuccessful applicants often decide to attend international veterinary schools.

This WCVM pilot program offers another option to students who wish to pursue their dream of becoming a veterinarian. While the program’s tuition rate is very close to international rates, the advantage is that western Canadian students can study close to home and learn in the region where most graduates will stay and practise.

For more information, please contact:
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