

STAY AND STUDY IN WESTERN CANADA

FALL 2020 ENTRY

Non-Interprovincial Agreement
(non-IPA) seats in the WCVN 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 its partner provinces.

In October 2017, the Province of Alberta announced its withdrawal from the Interprovincial Agreement. This decision means the college will no longer offer provincially-funded seats to Alberta residents after the fall 2019 entry.*

The loss of funding from the Government of Alberta has caused significant financial challenges for the WCVM, and the college is considering new funding options. For fall 2020 entry, the WCVM will offer seats in the DVM program that are not supported by the IPA. While the exact number of seats hasn't been determined, the minimum will be 10 and the maximum will be 25. Tuition rates for students admitted through non-Interprovincial Agreement (non-IPA) seats will be comparable to rates paid by Canadians who attend international veterinary schools (about \$67,000 per year).

*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.





Definition of **TERMS**

IPA

Interprovincial Agreement — a contract between the partner provinces and the WCVm.

Non-IPA seat

A student seat in the DVM program that's not supported by the Interprovincial Agreement (a range of 10 to 25 seats available for 2020 entry).

IPA seat

A student seat in the DVM program that's supported by one of the partner provinces through the college's Interprovincial Agreement (a minimum of 58 seats available for 2020 entry).

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 (USask) — 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

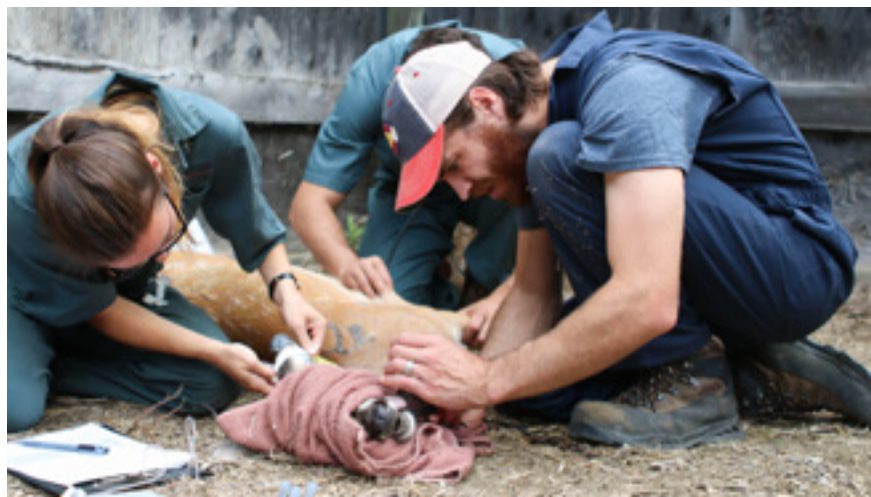
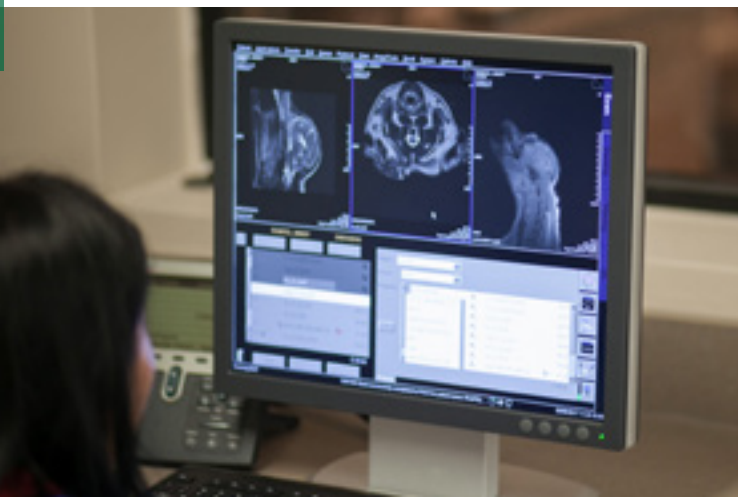
STUDENT SUPPORT

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.



Frequently asked **QUESTIONS**



Q. How many non-IPA seats are there?

The WCVM will admit 10 to 25 non-IPA seats for fall 2020 entry. Non-IPA seats are outside of the 58 provincially-subsidized seats allocated through the college's IPA.

Q. Who is eligible to apply for the non-IPA seats?

Applicants who applied for fall 2020 entry by Dec. 1, 2019, and met the residency requirements for IPA seats have the option of being considered for non-IPA seats.

In addition, individuals who meet the WCVM's residency requirements (as outlined on the WCVM admissions website) in the province of Alberta are eligible to apply for non-IPA seats. **The deadline for Alberta applicants is January 31, 2020.**

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 \$12,000 per year) plus an additional, non-IPA tuition of \$55,000 per year. Total tuition costs are approximately \$67,000 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 \$330,000 to \$350,000.

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?

The WCVM Admissions Office will contact all applicants who applied by the Dec. 1, 2019, deadline and met residency requirements for IPA seats. The email message will include instructions about how applicants can indicate their desire to be considered for a non-IPA seat.

Applicants who meet the WCVM residency requirements in Alberta must submit their online application by Jan. 31, 2020. **Note:** Alberta residents will only be considered for non-IPA seats.

Q. What is the admission/selection process for the non-IPA seats?

The WCVM uses the same admission requirements and selection criteria for both IPA and non-IPA seats. **Note:** The WCVM will give priority to applicants from the college's 2020 IPA partner provinces (British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the northern territories) for 80 per cent of the total number of non-IPA seats in the initial round of offers. The following steps outline the process:

- All applicants who meet the WCVM's residency requirements will be initially considered for an IPA seat (not applicable to Alberta residents)
- The WCVM will maintain a minimum 2:1 ratio of applicants interviewed to seats available

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 student declines a non-IPA seat?

As we do for each provincial pool, the WCVM will maintain a wait list in case an applicant declines admission to a non-IPA seat.





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.



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.

Q. What is the plan for admission in 2021 and beyond?

The WCVM has been approved to offer a maximum of 30 non-IPA seats to western Canadian and international applicants. However, the college has not yet determined specific details about the timeline of expansion or the numbers of allocated seats in each group. Please continue to check the WCVM website for updates.

Q. Why would I be interested in a non-IPA seat?

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 the student lives. The only exception was in Alberta; between 2008 and 2019, Alberta residents could apply for provincially-subsidized seats at both the WCVM and the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Across Canada, admission to veterinary programs in all five schools is highly competitive: the WCVM annually receives five applications per available seat. Because of this challenge, unsuccessful western Canadian applicants often decide to attend international veterinary schools.

The non-IPA seats available for fall 2020 entry at the WCVM offer 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.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

**Western College of
Veterinary Medicine**

[USASK.CA/WCVM](http://usask.ca/wcvm)

For more information, please contact:

Heather Mandeville, Manager, Admissions and Recruitment

Western College of Veterinary Medicine

University of Saskatchewan

306-966-7413 | heather.mandeville@usask.ca | usask.ca/wcvm