

# CSMLS or CAMLPR?

## Which pathway is yours?

A visual starting guide for internationally educated medical laboratory technologists planning to practise in Canada.

### **Start with your destination - not the exam name.**

The correct route depends on where you plan to practise and, in Alberta, which field of practice you are pursuing.

CSMLS

CAMLPR

OPTMQ

# Where do you plan to practise?

Choose the destination first. Then follow the route used by that jurisdiction and field.

## I completed my MLT education outside Canada

### ALBERTA

#### General MLT fields

Clinical Chemistry, Hematology, Transfusion Medicine, Clinical Microbiology or Histology.

**Contact CMLTA first. The current route may involve CSMLS PLA and the CSMLS General MLT exam.**



### ALBERTA

#### Genetics or Cytology

Clinical Genetics or Diagnostic Cytology applicants follow a different Alberta route.

**CAMLPR exams apply. Confirm the registration steps with the Alberta regulator.**

### PARTICIPATING ROUTES

#### CAMLPR jurisdictions

MB, NB, NL, NS, ON, PEI, SK, plus employer-recognized pathways in BC and the territories.

**Begin with CAMLPR Flexible Pathways and the applicable field-of-practice assessments.**

### QUÉBEC

#### OPTMQ pathway

Québec uses its own assessment, examination and registration pathway.

**Contact OPTMQ directly before paying for another organization's application or exam.**



#### Already registered or already working as an MLT?

You may not need a new CAMLPR exam. Confirm your status with your regulator or employer before applying.

# The CAMLPR pathway

A simplified overview for internationally educated and non-traditionally educated applicants.

**01****Choose your jurisdiction and fields**

Identify where you plan to practise and which laboratory fields match your education and experience.

**02****Create your CAMLPR applicant account**

Review the applicant information and complete the required readiness and application steps.

**03****Prior Learning Assessment**

CAMLPR evaluates your education, clinical training and experience in the fields you selected.

**04****Complete an Education Plan if needed**

If gaps are identified, complete the assigned learning before receiving exam eligibility.

**05****Write the field-of-practice exams**

Write only the competency assessments for the fields in which you have been found eligible.

**06****Complete registration or employer steps**

Apply to the provincial regulator, or follow employer requirements in an unregulated jurisdiction.

**GOOD TO KNOW**

Passing an assessment is one part of the pathway. Registration decisions remain with the applicable regulator, and employer requirements may apply in unregulated regions.

# Alberta: the CSMLS route

For internationally educated General MLT applicants pursuing Alberta registration in the five General MLT fields.

**TIME-SENSITIVE**

**New CSMLS General MLT PLA applications: current window closes Dec. 31, 2026**

1

## Live in Alberta

CSMLS states that an internationally educated General MLT must reside in Alberta while applying through this PLA route.

2

## Confirm direction with CMLTA

Ask the Alberta regulator which assessment and registration steps apply to your situation before paying fees.

3

## Complete the CSMLS PLA

Education, practical training, clinical training, experience and language evidence are assessed.

4

## Receive exam eligibility

If the PLA outcome confirms eligibility, register for the CSMLS General MLT certification examination.

5

## Write the exam in Alberta

The CSMLS General MLT examination under this route may only be written in Alberta.

6

## Apply for Alberta registration

Follow CMLTA requirements to become registered and legally practise as an MLT in Alberta.

### DO NOT ASSUME AN OLD CSMLS ROUTE STILL APPLIES

If you previously started a CSMLS PLA, attempted a CSMLS exam, or are pursuing Clinical Genetics or Diagnostic Cytology, review the official transition guidance or contact the regulator before proceeding.

# Quick safeguards and official sources

This guide helps you find the right starting point. It does not determine eligibility or replace official instructions.

- 01 Choose your intended province or territory first.**
- 02 Confirm whether your exact field uses CAMLPR, CSMLS or a provincial pathway.**
- 03 If you have an old PLA or exam history, use the transition guidance.**
- 04 Check the official fee, document and deadline pages before paying.**

## Official sources used

### 1. CAMLPR - Exam eligibility by jurisdiction

[camlpr.org/become-an-mlt/fields-of-practice-exams/eligibility/](https://camlpr.org/become-an-mlt/fields-of-practice-exams/eligibility/)

### 2. CAMLPR - Internationally educated applicants

[camlpr.org/become-an-mlt/internationally-educated-mlts-and-non-traditionally-educated-applicants/](https://camlpr.org/become-an-mlt/internationally-educated-mlts-and-non-traditionally-educated-applicants/)

### 3. CAMLPR - Prior Learning Assessment

[camlpr.org/become-an-mlt/prior-learning-assessment/](https://camlpr.org/become-an-mlt/prior-learning-assessment/)

### 4. CSMLS - Internationally educated MLTs

[csmls.org/certification/how-to-become-certified/internationally-educated-medical-laboratory-technologists-iemlt/](https://csmls.org/certification/how-to-become-certified/internationally-educated-medical-laboratory-technologists-iemlt/)

### 5. CSMLS - Prior Learning Assessment

[csmls.org/certification/how-to-become-certified/prior-learning-assessment-pla/](https://csmls.org/certification/how-to-become-certified/prior-learning-assessment-pla/)

## Independent educational resource

Canadian Lab Notes is not affiliated with CAMLPR, CSMLS, CMLTA or OPTMQ. Requirements can change; verify your route directly with the responsible organization.