



Electives Program Overview

What is the Electives Program at UofT?

The MD Program at the University of Toronto is one of the largest undergraduate medical education programs in Canada, averaging around 270+ learners per cohort per year. The program spans 4 years, comprising of the [Foundations](#) (Years 1 & 2) and [Clerkship](#) (Years 3 & 4) curriculums.

The **Electives Course** (ELV410Y), which spans Years 3 & 4, is a required course for all UofT MD students. In the latter portion of Year 3, students complete one 2-week elective (May or June). In early Year 4, students complete up to 14-weeks of electives (Sept-Dec). To obtain course credit, students must complete a minimum of 13-weeks in any combination of “home”/UofT-based electives, visiting electives (Canada and/or US) or research electives. The main objectives are to enable students to gain experience in aspects of medicine beyond the core curriculum, develop knowledge and skills in greater depth and explore areas of interest to assist in career decision-making. Electives play an important role in students’ CaRMS residency applications.

In addition, the Electives Office places and supports elective medical students from external universities across Canada and internationally via our **Domestic & International Visiting Programs** (see below).

Program Overview – Home Electives & Visiting (Domestic & International) Electives

As an elective preceptor, you may teach three types of students:

Elective Type	Student Type	Description	Elective Period	Booking Procedure
Home	University of Toronto MD students.	Home electives are a <i>demand-based</i> system whereby UofT students review a catalogue of elective descriptions & submit a request to attend an elective at a specific site & with a specific preceptor through the MedSIS online registration system.	<i>Year 3</i> – May & June. <i>Year 4</i> – September – December.	Home electives are registered & processed through MedSIS via an e-mail notification system: MedSIS Registration System & MD Program, Electives Catalogue . <i>*Note: MedSIS registration typically opens in Feb and remains open till end Dec. As such many students apply early for fall electives.</i> Home elective students are permitted to contact site admins/faculty via email to make inquiries only once MedSIS registration opens.
Visiting Domestic	Visiting students from an accredited Canadian Medical School .	Visiting domestic electives are a <i>capacity-based</i> system whereby students from 18 medical schools in Canada are hosted at UofT for defined 2-week blocks. Students apply through the AFMC Portal . The AFMC operates a random selection process where students are placed if capacity has been provided in advance to the Electives Office.	12 defined 2-week blocks in July – December & January – June.	Placement Contacts provide their capacity to the Electives Office & are notified via confirmation email 6-10 weeks in advance of the placement start date by the Electives Office . <i>*Note: domestic visiting students are not permitted to contact site admins/faculty or arrange an elective directly (i.e. outside of the central application process described on the AFMC Portal). Failure to do so may have professionalism consequences.</i>
Visiting International	Visiting students from FAIMER/IMED -accredited medical schools located outside of Canada.	Visiting international electives are a <i>demand-based system</i> whereby students from international universities that have an agreement with the UofT are hosted for 2, 3 or 4-week placements.	January – August.	Students who meet eligibility requirements are chosen through a random selection process & are invited to apply to available elective placements through the AFMC Portal . <i>*Note: international visiting students are not permitted to contact site admins/faculty or arrange an elective directly (i.e. outside of the central application process described on the AFMC Portal). Failure to do so may have professionalism consequences.</i>

Developed by:

Dr. Kimberley Kitto, Electives Director
Susan Rice, Curriculum Project Manager

How do I register a new elective with the Electives Office?

We would be glad to welcome you as a new elective preceptor. Preceptors play a pivotal role in a student's practical medical education, shape professional development and support career navigation.

To become an elective preceptor, you must have a UofT faculty appointment and be registered in our Medical Student Information (MedSIS) catalogue. To begin the registration process, you can complete the [Clerkship Clinical Elective Proposal Form](#).

Once your information has been registered, UofT students will be able to apply via MedSIS. The visiting electives (domestic & international) program will also include you in the next capacity collection process.

How do I provide my availability?

Your time is valued. It would be helpful for you to consider how much clinical time you can dedicate to teaching elective medical students, both home and visiting. We request that UofT medical students be prioritized within reason. You can accept or decline a home elective request by simply accepting, declining or modifying date requests through the MedSIS registration system.

For visiting domestic electives, the Elective Office will need you to provide your availability ahead of time through the [Capacity Collection Round](#) process. Once you have submitted your availability, it is considered confirmed. Thereafter, students who apply via the AFMC Portal will be placed with you by our Electives Office and you will be notified via confirmation email from our office.

Similarly, for visiting international elective students, the Electives Office will contact you to provide your availability to host students for the Jan-July timeframe. Students would apply to your elective via the AFMC Portal and you can accept/decline or modify date requests through the [AFMC Portal](#) system.

What supports are available to me as an Electives preceptor?

The MD Program Electives Office offers several resources and supports for its elective preceptors:

- [Information for New Elective Supervisors: Roles, Responsibilities, and Resources](#)
- [Home Electives Program Policies & Procedures](#)
- [Visiting Elective Student Policies & Requirements](#)
- [Office of Faculty Development Hub](#)
- [Sign up for the Electives Community Newsletter](#)
- [Sign up for the Electives Community SharePoint](#) **UofT email required*
- [To learn more, book a meeting with the Elective Office](#)

Questions or concerns? contact the MD Program's [Electives Office](#).

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