



Directions for Immigrants in  
Trades and Professional Careers

# Directions Headlines

Issue 13

December 2011

## Upcoming Study Group Start Dates:

Engineering, Geosciences:  
Jan 18 & 25

Fundamentals of New  
Engineering: Jan 7

Clear Communication for  
Business (All professions):  
Jan 19

Clear Communication for  
Health Professionals (All  
health professions): Jan 16

Medicine (International  
Medical Graduates): Jan 5;  
Jan 17.

Medical Laboratory Science:  
Feb 4

Nursing: Feb 24 and Feb 28

Pharmacy: Dec 3 and Jan 14

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## 54 Internationally Educated Health Professionals Practiced Their Skills at Mock Exams

This fall Directions for Immigrants implemented two mock clinical exams for 54 internationally educated health professionals at the University of Calgary's Medical Skills Centre.

The purpose was to help the clients prepare for their Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) required as part of the licensing process that international medical graduates (IMGs) and internationally educated pharmacists have to pursue in Canada. The OSCE consists of a series of stations simulating medical situations that involve interactions with standardized (simulated) patients.

The mock OSCE for IMGs included 34 participants, 24 assessors and 12 scenarios. The cases varied from a patient with psychiatric disorders to a patient with multiple trauma. "We were able to assess our performance. It was done at the perfect time so we could focus on how to improve," said Alejandra Ugarte Torres, one of the IMGs participating in the study group. Dan Chen, another participant expressed: "The wonderful instructors and dedicated facilitator made the study group an invaluable experience for me."

The mock OSCE for internationally educated pharmacists included 20



The assessors observed the clients' performance to provide feedback

participants, 12 assessors and 9 scenarios, which included a patient wanting to quit smoking to one presenting new symptoms after changing medication.

John Uy Cana, one of the internationally educated pharmacists said: "The mock OSCE helped us to have confidence. The assessors gave good and honest feedback about the areas the candidate needs to improve on." Jason Remillard, one of the licensed pharmacists who participated as an assessor affirmed: "The exam not only tests your knowledge about pharmacy, but also how you are able to apply that knowledge in a real interaction. The finesse in pharmacy is conveying what you know to patients. Confidence and strong communication skills must be

present at the OSCE."

As indicated on the Medical Council of Canada website, the OSCE includes problems in medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, preventive medicine and community health, psychiatry and surgery.

The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) administers the OSCE to examine the knowledge, skills and abilities required for current pharmacy practice such as patient care, ethical, legal and professional responsibilities and drug, therapeutic and practice information, as the PEBC website states.

Internationally educated professionals can contact Directions at 403-297-2555.

## Embrace the Art of Networking

Interested in a  
Directions **Info  
Session** for  
your group?  
Book it today!

Call 403-441-2259



Directions for Immigrants  
is on TWITTER.  
Follow us at  
[@bvcdirections](https://twitter.com/bvcdirections)

Many of us have heard that 80% of jobs are found through networking. Yet, some job seekers might feel uneasy about contacting people they do not know. Good news, networking actually pays off.

Directions' clients have proven that talking to people is an effective job search strategy. Juan Pablo Casas is an accountant with 14 years of experience in the tax and accounting field. "When I came to Calgary I focused on sending resumes online from home with no results. With the help of my career coach I tried a new approach, networking," says Juan Pablo.

Juan Pablo not only hand-delivered resumes to accounting offices and small companies, but also marketed his skills and experience just talking to people whenever he had a chance. "I was in the mall waiting for my wife when I started a casual conversation with someone who happened to be an accountant. He asked me to send him my resume and in a couple of days I received a phone call for an interview," expresses Juan Pablo, who is currently working as an accountant technician for a firm in Calgary. "Directions helped me to understand the importance of networking in Canada," affirms Juan Pablo.



Participants of the workshops develop their own self-marketing tools

Ask us how  
to join our  
workshops:

- ◆ 3-hour workshop "How to Network"
- ◆ 6-week workshop series "Networking and Job Leads"

Networking also worked for Murali Matt, a civil engineer with more than 20 years of experience in the construction industry. He came to Calgary in 2010 and accessed Directions' services to learn how to network in Canada.

"I sent my resume to a friend who works for a consulting company in project controls. She sent my resume to her boss, who forwarded it to the project director, who then sent it to the project lead. I received a call from the project lead for an informal chat," details Murali who got the job shortly after that conversation.

Murali is currently working as an Engineering Specialist for a consulting firm in Calgary. "I recommend Directions for Immigrants 100%. They provided me the resources I needed to find a job in my field," concludes Murali.

Kunbi is another Directions' client who recently got a job as an Environmental Consultant for a consulting firm in Calgary, thanks to making new contacts. "I talked to about 15 people in the field and at least half of them got back to me when I followed up," finishes Kunbi. Networking is a powerful tool. Give it a try.



## We have a new home page

We have refreshed our website with a new look. The site features more clients who are internationally educated physicians, engineers, pharmacists and nurses and IT professionals, agrologists, business administrators and many other professionals that Directions serves. Learn more about how our services can assist you! Visit us at:

[www.directionsforimmigrants.ca](http://www.directionsforimmigrants.ca)

## Fall Highlights

Profession	Service	Date of completion
Engineering and Geosciences	National Professional Practice Exam Study Group	Oct 12 and Oct 15
	2 groups: Wednesdays and Saturdays	
Nursing	Canadian Registered Nurse Exam Study Group	Oct 4
Medicine (International Medical Graduates)	Medical Council of Canada (MCC) Qualifying Examination Part I Study Group	Oct 22
	National Assessment Collaboration Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)	Oct 11
Pharmacy	Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada Qualifying Exam Part I Study Group	Oct 27 and 29
	2 groups: Saturdays and Thursdays	
	Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) Study Group	Oct 29
All professions	Clear Communication for Business	Nov 24
All health professions	Clear Communication for Health Professionals	Nov 28
Engineering and Geosciences	Industry Networking Session: Getting Licensed as a Professional Engineer, Geologist or Geophysicist with APEGGA	Nov 8
All professions	Industry Networking Session: Toyo Engineering Ltd. presented their current projects and hiring practices	Nov 25

Groups fill up quickly! Meet with a career coach to get your name on the list!

### Clients' feedback

*"The workshops helped me to sum up my knowledge about networking and gave me new information"*

Irina Oberemchenko

*"My success is not only a result of my hard work, but also my career coach's help in every step of my job search"*

May

## December 15: Holiday Open House



Mark your calendar! Directions for Immigrants invites you to our Holiday Open House on Thursday December 15 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at our office. Come and mingle with our staff, clients and community partners. Please confirm your attendance **by December 8** to [rsvpdirections@bowvalleycollege.ca](mailto:rsvpdirections@bowvalleycollege.ca)



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### *Helping Immigrant Professionals restart their careers in Alberta*

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Directions for Immigrants supports internationally trained and experienced professionals towards securing employment in their profession and gaining accreditation.

- Career Coaching
- Study Groups for Licensing Exams
- Workplace Communication
- Industry Networking Sessions

#### **Our location:**

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