

Astha Burande

University of Alberta | MD Class of 2026

Education

Doctor of Medicine (*Aug. 2022 – Present*)

University of Alberta

Bachelor of Science (Double Major)

Biological Sciences & Psychology, University of Alberta

Leadership Experience

Executive Vice President

Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS)

2024 – 2025

- Provided strategic oversight of internal operations, including governance processes, budget recommendations, and portfolio alignment across a 24-member board.
- Played a key role in the hiring of CFMS communications staff and supported coordination of the CFMS website redesign.
- Advised on key initiatives, including the rollout of the **5-Year Strategic Plan**, increased financial documentation transparency, and creation of internal board accountability mechanisms.

Director of Education

Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS)

2023 – 2025 (Elected Twice)

- Led national advocacy that contributed to the transition of the **AFMC Visiting Electives Portal** to a **capacity-based model** (launching May 2025), promoting affordability and equity.
- Coordinated development of **three national position papers**, including *Disability in Medicine*, *‘Keeping the Faith’ – Religious Attire in Medical Education*, and *Primary Care Crisis*, presented at the Spring General Meeting (SGM).
- Launched and led the **Matchbook Project** with a strong EDIA focus, offering students practical residency application guidance.

- Developed **Match Mentorship Programs** to support unmatched and pre-match students through peer guidance.
- Initiated the creation of national **OSCE preparation guides** to improve access to academic resources.
- Co-led development of the **National Advocacy Database**, centralizing student-led advocacy initiatives.
- Founded and chaired the **Satellite Campus Roundtable**, providing governance support and national representation for students from distributed medical campuses.

Governance Committee Member

Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS)

2022 – 2023

- Played a central role in **CFMS election reform**, including the redesign of the **voting system for Regional Directors** to improve transparency and regional representation.
- Supported the review and revision of CFMS bylaws to better align with equity, governance best practices, and leadership development.