

BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
EXAMINATION AND VISA REQUIREMENTS
FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES
APPLYING TO A GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

All international medical graduates must complete the questionnaire on Pages 4 & 5 of this flyer and return it with an application for the graduate medical education program at Baylor College of Medicine.

This information is for the following categories of international medical graduates:

1. Citizens of the U.S. (received an M.D. degree outside the U.S. and Canada)
2. Permanent Residents of the U.S. (with immigrant visa; “green card”)
3. Nonimmigrants (those who need a visa to enter the U.S. and who received the M.D. degree outside the U.S. and Canada)
4. Canadian Citizens (received M.D. degree outside the U.S. and Canada)

1. **Citizens of the U.S.** (received M.D. degree outside the U.S. and Canada)

Examination requirement: Foreign Medical Graduate Examination in the Medical Sciences (FMGEMS) or Part I and Part II examinations of the National Board of Medical Examiners or *Parts I and II of the USMLE.

2. **Permanent Residents of the U.S.** (immigrant visa; “green card”)

Examination requirement: Foreign Medical Graduate Examination in the Medical Sciences (FMGEMS) or Part I and Part II examinations of the National Board of Medical Examiners or Steps I and II or USMLE.

3. **Nonimmigrants:** (those who need a visa to enter the U.S. and who received the M.D. degree outside the U.S. and Canada)

Examination requirement: Foreign Medical Graduate Examination in the Medical Sciences (FMGEMS) or Part I and Part II examinations of the National Board of Medical Examiners, or Visa Qualifying (VQE) or Parts I and II of the USMLE.

Visa requirement: All international medical graduates who are not citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. must obtain a J-1 visa sponsored by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) or an H1B visa. An H1B visa is available only to M.D.’s who have passed ECFMG and FLEX or Steps I, II and III of the USMLE. These are the only nonimmigrant visas permitted for entry into a U.S. graduate medical education program. On Page 2 is a summary of the governmental regulations concerning ECFMG sponsorship of the J-1 visa and on Page 3, the H1B visa requirements.

4. **Canadian Citizens** – Canadian citizens must comply with the visa requirements for nonimmigrant international medical graduates. If you graduate from a medical school in Canada, you are not required to pass a foreign medical graduate examination. If you graduated from a medical school outside Canada, you must pass either the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination in the Medical Sciences (FMGEMS), the *VISA Qualifying Examination (VQE) Part I and Part II examination of the National Board of Medical Examiners or Parts I and Part II of the USMLE.

* The visa Qualifying Examination (VQE) and the ECFMG Examination are no longer administered. USMLE replaces the Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX) and the NBME Parts I and II effective June 1993, and Part III effective June 1994.

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR NONIMMIGRANT INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES

All international medical graduates who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States and are entering the U.S. to participate in graduate medical education or training (residency or clinical fellowship programs) must obtain a J-1 visa under the sponsorship of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates or, if qualified, the H1B visa. The H1B requires successful completion of the FLEX part I and II or USMLE steps 1,2, and 3.

If you are accepted into a clinical training program at Baylor College of Medicine, the International Office will help you apply for your visa.

The following are the U.S. government regulations (Public Law 94-484) concerning entry into a clinical training program:

1. You may only accept a position in a graduate medical education program offered by medical schools and their affiliated teaching hospitals.
2. You must pass a medical science examination, currently the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) Steps I and II or the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination in the Medical Sciences (FMGEMS) or Part 1 and Part II examinations of the National Board of Medical Examiners and meet the English language requirement unless you:
 - a. graduate from an accredited American or Canadian Medical School, or
 - b. on January 9, 1978 were fully and permanently licensed to practice medicine in a State and were practicing medicine in a State on that date.
3. You will be permitted to remain in the U.S. for the duration of time typically required to complete the requirements of the medical specialties board, not to exceed seven years on the J1 visa and six years on the H1B.

For J-1 Sponsorship

- a. Extensions beyond seven years may be granted in rare cases and are difficult to obtain. An application for such extensions must be submitted to ECFMG for USIA approval.
- b. You may change your graduate medical specialty education program one time, no later than two years after the date you enter the U.S. as an exchange visitor or acquire exchange visitor status sponsored by the ECFMG, provided you have written assurance from your country that there is a need for individuals trained in that specialty and a release from your previous Program Director.
- c. Non-ACGME accredited training programs required extensive documentation from: the alien physician; the home country, and the sponsoring program before an approval from ECFMG will be requested. Sponsorship for such programs is on case by case basis.
- d. There is no grace period in-between programs. All IAP-66S must be continuous without gap in dates covered.
- e. You must provide the ECFMG with an annual statement (form 1-644) that you are in good standing in the graduate medical education program and that you will return to your country of nationality or last residence upon completion of the education or training for which you have come to the U.S.

For more information about the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Steps 1 and II and application forms, contact the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), 3624 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA. Telephone: (215)622-1445. For general inquiries, contact USMLE secretariat. Telephone: (215) 590-9600.

H1B Requirements

Criteria: An alien physician may be admitted to the United States on an H1B visa to obtain graduate medical education or practice clinically if he/she:

1. has graduated from a U.S. medical school, or has passed the Flex I and II or USMLE parts 1, 2, and 3 and is certified by the ECFMG;
2. is competent in oral and written English;
3. can provide proof of official permission to clinically practice in the State of Texas.

The H-1 petition must be accompanied by the following:

1. an approved labor condition application from the Department of Labor;
2. evidence that the position qualifies as a specialty occupation which is defined “requiring the theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge to perform the occupation, and requires completion of a specific course of education culminating in a baccalaureate degree or higher in a specific occupation”;
3. evidence the alien has acquired the required degree and Institutional Permit;
4. a copy of a written contract between the alien and employer, enumerating the terms of the agreement;
5. a statement that the terms of the approved labor condition application will be complied with;
6. a signed statement that the employer will pay the reasonable cost of return transportation if the physician is dismissed before the end of the period of authorized stay;
7. an Immigration filing fee.

The entire process can take two months or more once all steps are completed and evidentiary documentation is assembled. In light of the time required to complete the immigration and institutional permit process, plan on a six month process. The alien physician cannot begin graduate education or private practice until the H-1 petition has been approved. H1B Sponsorship is contingent upon H1B visa availability and willingness on the part of the program.

You will not be considered for a residency or clinical fellowship position at Baylor College of Medicine unless you have passed the appropriate medical science examination and have a valid ECFMG certificate or a letter from ECFMG stating that you have met the requirements needed to obtain a valid ECFMG certificate.

Nonimmigrant international medical graduates who are appointed to residency positions at Baylor College of Medicine through the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) will be contacted by the International Office with visa information soon after the match results are publicized. Departments which appoint residents outside the NRMP and clinical fellows are instructed to notify the International Office as soon as an interview takes place. If you are not contacted by the International Office soon after negotiating a clinical position at Baylor college of Medicine, please call us. The telephone number (713)798-4604.

____5. In the United States on a J-1 visa for the purpose of study, research or teaching and must apply for ECFMG sponsorship. Have read and do understand the enclosed ECFMG SPECIAL NOTICE of this flyer which explains ECFMG'S criteria for changing from a research to a clinical position.

- a. Entered the U.S. on a J-1 visa or acquired J-1 visa status on _____(month/ day / year)
- b. Attach copies of all IAP-66 forms.
- c. Attach copy of valid standard or interim ECFMG certificate.
- d. Attach copy of the results of either the Foreign medical Graduate Examination in the Medical Sciences Parts I and II examinations of the National Board of Medical Examiners or the Visa Qualifying Examination

Or

- e. Attach proof of eligibility for an exemption of the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination or Part I and Part II examinations of the National Board of Medical Examiners.

____6. Other visa status, please explain:

I certify that the above information is correct.

SIGNATURE

DATE