

POLICIES REGARDING FOREIGN NATIONALS AND INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES

ECFMG Certificates

All graduates of medical schools outside of the United States or Canada must have a valid ECFMG certificate to train in University of Louisville residency programs.

Acceptable Visas:

J1 Clinical Visa

The University of Louisville School of Medicine utilizes the J1 visa for residency training. Eligibility criteria for the J1 visa include ECFMG sponsorship and acceptance into a U.S. Residency program. Completed applications and supporting documents are sent to the Graduate Medical Education office where they are signed and forwarded to the ECFMG for approval. Under normal circumstances applications take 4-6 weeks to be approved, but it is recommended that applications be sent as early as possible to avoid delay due to unforeseen complications. The deadline for submitting applications for initial sponsorship to the ECFMG is April 1. Applications for continuing sponsorship should be submitted by May 1. Residents sponsored on J1 visas are not allowed to moonlight or earn any income for activities that are not a part of their training program. All residents training on visas are required to provide a copy of their most recent I-94 in order to begin training.

Permanent Residents and Employment Authorizations

Foreign medical residents may train using a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) or Employment Authorization Documents (EAD). The GME office must have a copy of the unexpired document on file in order for the resident to train and be paid. It is the resident's responsibility to see that these documents are renewed when appropriate; allowing these documents to expire can result in a lapse in training. We recommend that applications for renewal of Permanent Resident cards be submitted 5-6 months before the expiration date. Applications for EAD's should be submitted at least 90 days in advance of expiration.

NOTE: Individual programs may limit the amount of time they will hold a position open for applicants to obtain appropriate immigration status.

Visas Not Accepted:

H1B Visas

Because residents are classified as students at the University of Louisville, the University does not sponsor H1B visas for residency training.

J2 Dependent Visas

J2 dependent visas are not accepted for residency training. These individuals must obtain their own J1 visa status.

J1 Research Visa

The J1 research visa does not allow the clinical activity required for residency training programs. Those applicants currently sponsored on the J1 Research visa must apply for a change of category to J1 Clinical, which requires Department of State approval.

Contact:

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