

GME Eligibility Requirements for Non-U.S. Citizens

Accepted Work Authorization Documents

To begin training at UW Health in an ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship program as a non-U.S. citizen, applicants must acquire or currently hold one of the following work authorizations:

- Lawful Permanent Resident (“Green Card”)
 - Authorizes the card holder the right to live and work in the United States indefinitely.
- Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
 - Applicant may have a pending Petition for Permanent Resident status.
- Initial or Continuation J-1 Alien Physician visa.
 - The J-1 Alien Physician visa is sponsored by Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) for the sole purpose of Graduate Medical Education training.
 - An “alien physician” is a foreign medical graduate pursuing graduate medical education training from an accredited school.
 - ECFMG will not sponsor an individual for longer than seven years. J-visa holders are not permitted to moonlight (internal or external). They cannot participate in any activities outside the approved training program nor are they eligible to receive any monies that are not part of the approved training program stipend.
 - Review EVSP Reference Guide, <http://www.ecfmq.org/evsp/index.html>, for more detailed information about the J-1 Alien Physician visa.

Additional Visa Information

Canadian Citizens and Landed Immigrants

Canadian citizens applying for J-1 or- J-2 visa status are not required to obtain a visa stamp at a U.S. Consulate to enter the United States. However, Canadian citizens must use Form DS-2019 to secure J-status at a U.S. port of entry. All J-1 applicants may enter the United States up to 30 days prior to the program start date identified on Form DS-2019. www.ecfmq.org/evsp/j1-canadian-citizens.pdf

Change of J-1 Visa Category

A change in J-1 visa category from Research Scholar to Alien Physician is possible under certain circumstances. The requirements for a change of category request and other details are outlined on the ECFMG website at <http://www.ecfmq.org/evsp/evspcocmemo.pdf>.

H-1B Visa (temporary professional worker)

As an employer, UW Health does not sponsor H-1B visas for graduate medical education training.

OPT (Optional Practical Training)

As an employer, UW Health does not sponsor OPT. This visa is not meant to be used for graduate medical education training. It is a work benefit allowed to international students in F-1 immigration status who are enrolled in, or completing a degree program in the U.S.

Contact the Graduate Medical Education Office at uwgme@uwhealth.org with any questions.