

Requirements for
International Medical Graduates at UCDHS

I. Foreign Nationals – Graduate of International Medical Schools
(Not a US Citizen, Permanent Residents, Refugee or Asylee)

- A. Visa – A clinical J-1 visa is required for admission to UCDHS residency and fellowship training programs. The visa can only be sponsored by ECFMG, which requires passage of USMLE Steps 1 and 2. Applicants on a J-1 with a waiver from the Department of State (DOS) can only be accepted into our programs on an EAD or clinical J1 visa. Once a J-1 physician receives a U.S. Department of State waiver recommendation, he/she is no longer eligible for an extension of ECFMG J-1 sponsorship for any training activity. J-1 physicians who are considering fellowship options while simultaneously pursuing waiver employment opportunities must understand that an approved waiver recommendation cannot be withdrawn should a fellowship be received. ECFMG has no authority to make exceptions to multiple-year programs. Sponsorship extensions for waiver recipients to prepare to sit for an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABNS) member board exam are permitted. Such extensions carry no training authorization.

NOTE: UCDHS follows the AAMC guidelines regarding H1-B sponsorship and does not support the H-1B visa for international medical graduates (IMG) for clinical training. In addition, UCDHS does not accept H1-B visa transfers. Specific exceptions, outlined in Section III apply to acceptance of an H-1B visa.

- B. ECFMG Certificate – International Medical Graduates (IMG) must have a current, valid ECFMG certificate in order to be eligible for postgraduate training. To obtain an ECFMG certificate, IMG must meet the following examination and medical education credential requirements.
1. Pass Step 1 and Step 2 of USMLE. Step 2 exam has two separate administered components, the Clinical Knowledge (CK) component and the Clinical Skills (CS) component;
 2. California law (2184) states that passing scores (on each Step) of the written examinations shall be valid for a period of 10 years from the month of the examination. Upon expiration of the 10-year period, the applicants may be required to re-take the expired examination if not enrolled in a training program.
 3. Pass the English exam; and,
 4. Meet all educational requirements as specified by ECFMG.

II. U.S. Citizen, Permanent Resident, Refugee or Asylee – Graduate of International Medical Schools.

- A. Permanent resident, refugee or asylee must provide proof of resident alien status and have the legal right to work in the United States.
- B. ECFMG Certificate – IMG must provide a copy of a current, valid ECFMG certificate regardless of citizenship.
- C. IMG with pending applications for permanent residency will sometimes qualify for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). A copy of the current permit must be submitted along with a copy of the receipt for filing the I-485 (Application to Change Status to Permanent Resident).

III. Foreign Nationals – Graduates of U.S. Medical Schools

- A. Non-U.S. citizens, who graduate from a U.S. medical school, sponsored by an F-1 student visa, are not required to meet ECFMG requirements.
- B. Non-U.S. citizens, who graduate from a U.S. medical school are not considered IMG and therefore can be sponsored by an H-1B visa.
- C. The F-1 student visa is not permitted for postgraduate training at UCDHS and must be converted to a one-year Employment Authorization Document (EAD) before the start of training. This permit will cover the resident while waiting for the issuance of the H-1B visa.
- D. Financial responsibility for the cost of the H-1B visa falls on the accepting Department.

IV. Graduates of Canadian Medical Schools

- A. Effective July 1, 2009, Graduates of Canadian medical schools, will be required to obtain a clinical J-1 visa for admission to UCDHS residency and fellowship training programs which will be sponsored by ECFMG.

NOTE: Either USMLE or MCCQE (Canadian equivalent of USMLE) will allow a graduate of a Canadian medical school to be licensed in California.

- B. ECFMG certificate and English exam are **not** required.
- C. Graduates of Canadian medical schools are not required to obtain a PTAL.

V. **Requirements for IMG Licensure in California – Foreign Nationals or U.S. Citizens**

- A. The Medical Board accepts 17 exam combinations for licensure and 5 exam combinations for postgraduate training. Reference Section 1328 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations.
- B. Two years of approved postgraduate training in any state in the U.S. qualifies an IMG for licensure in California.
- C. Graduates of Fifth Pathway Programs are not required to obtain a PTAL.

VI. **References**

- A. Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)
P.O. Box 828262
Philadelphia, PA 19182-8262
Telephone: (215) 823-2121
FAX: (215) 386-9766
<http://www.ecfm.org/>
- B. Medical Board of California (MBC)
Division of Licensing and Applications
2025 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815
Telephone: (916) 263-2382
<http://www.medbd.ca.gov/>