
Policy Title: Clinical Training Visas



Original Date: October 2008
GMEC Endorsed: January 2018
Next Revision Date: January 2022

David C. Weigle, PhD, MPH
Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education
Designated Institutional Official

POLICY

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) accepts international medical graduates who meet UTSW eligibility and selection requirements and Texas Medical Board licensure requirements into its Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs. All international medical graduates (IMGs) except for those who graduated from an accredited (LCME or CACMS) medical school in the United States or Canada must have a current and valid ECFMG (Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates) certificate at the time of application. Individuals who are not United States citizens must, at the time of matriculation into the GME program, have one of the following:

- A J-1 visa sponsored by the Educational Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG);
- US Permanent Resident status with a Permanent Resident Card (*i.e.*, Green Card);
- Asylee or Refugee status with appropriate documentation; or
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status with a current Employment Authorization Document (EAD).

PROCEDURE

Program Directors and coordinators must carefully screen non-citizen applicants, prior to the match, to insure that they fully understand the applicant's current visa status and their expectations for visa status during the training period. It is strongly recommended that the website for each residency and fellowship program have a visa sponsorship statement indicating that the institution's policy is to accept only J-1 visas.

These guidelines apply whether the non-citizen graduated from a U.S. or foreign medical school.

EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions for other types of sponsorship may be considered only under extraordinary circumstances and when the Department Chair is willing to advocate for an exception based on departmental needs and an applicant's exceptional potential for becoming an excellent academic physician (e.g., recruitment as faculty member). In such cases the Department Chair must submit a packet including the following materials to the DIO:

- 1) A letter addressed to the Dean delineating the specific reasons for the exception. The letter must be signed by the Department Chair and the Program Director and contain language specific to the requested exception. For example;
 - a) *"We have confirmed that the applicant has all the federal prerequisites for an H-1B visa, including Steps 1,2 and 3 of the USMLE. We understand that if the H-1B is approved this physician must be a UT Southwestern employee and, as such can only be paid on the UT Southwestern budget payroll, not on an FFEL form (Fellowship Stipend) or by a hospital."*
- 2) The candidate's curriculum vitae.
- 3) Documentary evidence of the recruitment process leading to the identification of the candidate and the source of his or her funding.

The DIO will distribute the application packet to the International Office for approval. The application packet must be approved by both the International Office and the DIO prior to submission of the packet to the Dean. The Dean's decision regarding exceptions to this policy is final.