



ECFMG Update

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What is the ECFMG?


- Primary source of FMG verification for medical school completion and passing of USMLE tests.
- Satisfies JACHO/Medicare document requirements.
- No charge to GME programs for verification.

Certification Requirements



- Passing of USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, Step 2 CS and English Proficiency (part of Step 2)
- Graduation from an approved medical school of 4 academic years from International Med. Edu. Directory (IMED—provided by Ministry of Health).
- Canada & Puerto Rico are USMG--ECFMG certification required.
- No expiration of certificate if CSA was taken before 2001. Otherwise, a validation stamp is needed.

Central Verification System (CVS) Online



- 24-hr/7-day web-based verification system.
- Used to check status of residents not in the match.
- Establish an account for your program by emailing cvsonline@ecfmq.org

ECFMG & ERAS

- Letters of Recommendation submitted to ERAS by ECFMG are considered “original”, otherwise it will be noted as copy.
- Applicant need not be certified to apply to Match, only to pass USMLE exams.
- ECFMG will target June 20th to update all certificates for those FMG’s graduating in May/June for a program start date of 7/1.

J-1 / J-2 VISA Sponsorship

- ECFMG is the visitor sponsor for all J-1 Physicians in clinical training.
- Temporary non-immigrant VISA for full-time education training, not employment.
- Must be renewed each year.
- Requires 2 years of service in home country after training.
- 7 year maximum stay allowed.
- \$100 SEVIS fee, and \$131 application fee

Training Program Liaison (TPL)

- Program Director of Training Institution
- Communicates with ECFMG Regional Advisor on—
 - Arrival of physician into USA
 - Any change in training status
 - Residential location of physician for SEVIS tracking

The J-1 Sponsorship Process

US Dept. of State (DOS)
US Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS)
Student & Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)

ECFMG

Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program (EVSP)
Regional Advisor

Host Institution

Training Program Liaison (TPL)

Program Director

J-1 Physician

Obtaining the VISA

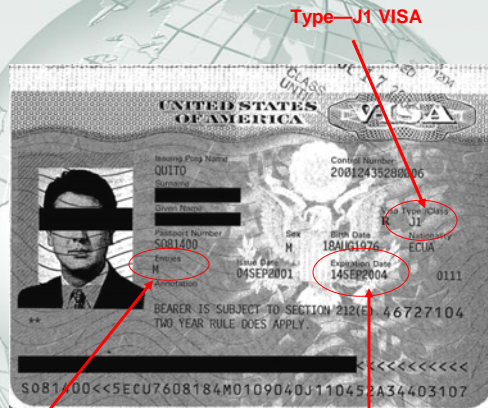
- Interview might be in 2 parts—
 - 1) eligibility for an interview
 - 2) actual VISA application interview
- Recommend having a letter at 1st interview to expedite the scheduling of the 2nd interview.
- Documents needed for Consulate
 - VISA Application
 - DS 2019 (issued by ECFMG via TPL)
 - Passport & Photo
 - Statement of Need from Ministry of Health

DS-2019 issued by ECFMG

Be sure this section is signed before leaving the USA.

Traveling to/from USA

- J-1 VISA (together with DS-2019) is the travel document issued by the Consulate General, and allows the physician to enter the USA.
- Review VISA restrictions on travel website BEFORE leaving USA.

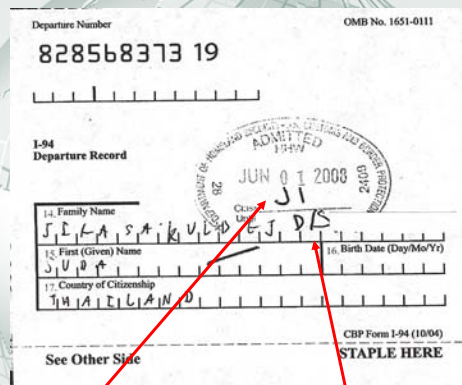


M = multiple entries
S = single entry

Last date to re-enter the USA.

I-94 Departure Card

- Issued at Port of Entry and stamped by the immigration official.
- Specifies how long you are able to remain in USA.



J-1 Status

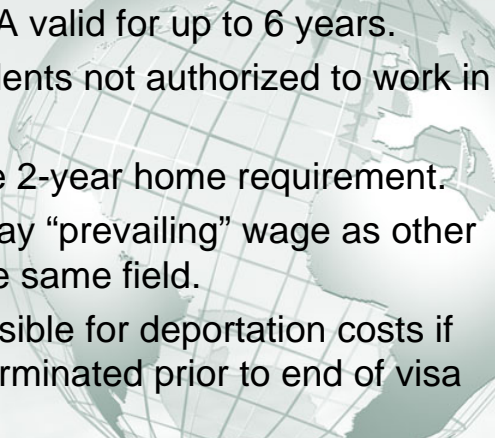
D/S—duration of stay

Acculturation Program


- Assists IMG's on the US medical system as well as living and working in the USA.
- Advisor network for mentoring help (need to meet qualifications).
- Considerations for IMG's—
 - Patient/MD Communications
 - Basic US Cultures/Practices (driving, etc.)
 - Slang usage (24/7, bad hair day, under the weather, etc)



H1-B VISA

- Employment VISA valid for up to 6 years.
 - Spouses/Dependents not authorized to work in US.
 - Not subject to the 2-year home requirement.
 - Employer must pay “prevailing” wage as other US workers in the same field.
 - Employer responsible for deportation costs if employment is terminated prior to end of visa validity.
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O-1 VISA

- Valid for up to 3 years.
 - Small percentage of holders with a high level of expertise in a particular field of endeavor.
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Websites & Contacts

- www.ecfm.org
- <https://cvsonline2.ecfm.org/> (Central Online Verification System with login)
- <http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/evspinit.html> (J-1 VISA application)
- www.ecfm.org/acculturation (Transitioning IMG's)
- <http://travel.state.gov/> (travel for VISA holders)
- www.uscis.gov (US Citizenship & Immigration Service)
- *ECFMG Regional Advisor for Hawaii—*
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