

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION FOREIGN NATIONALS AND INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES POLICY AND PROCEDURES

DEFINITIONS (AS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT)

Educational Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG): ECFMG is a private, non-profit organization established to:

- provide information to and answer inquiries of IMGs planning to come to the United States for GME;
- evaluate IMGs' credentials, knowledge of medicine, and command of English; and
- certify that IMGs have met certain medical education and examination requirements.

Certification by ECFMG is the standard for evaluating the qualifications of International medical graduates (IMGs) before they enter U.S. graduate medical education (GME), where they provide supervised patient care. ECFMG Certification also is a requirement for IMGs to take Step 3 of the three-step United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE®) and to obtain an unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States. (From <https://www.ecfm.org/about/index.html>, accessed September 4, 2020)

ECFMG also administers the Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program (EVSP), which sponsors J-1 visas for the purpose of participation in a U.S. accredited training programs. For more information and a complete listing of services provided to assist IMGs, please go to the ECFMG website www.ECFMG.org or contact Kathy Sandman in the GME Office.

Employment Authorization Documents (EAD): A document issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). See <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/information-for-employers-and-employees/employer-information/employment-authorization> for more information.

International medical graduates (IMGs): A physician who has graduated from a medical school outside of the United States or Canada.

POLICY

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

ECFMG Certificate Requirement for IMGs

2. 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.
3. Certificates must be current on the date that the resident begins training.

Foreign Nationals Employment Authorizations/Immigration Status

4. Foreign medical residents may train using a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) or Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) or by obtaining an accepted via status.

a. Visas Accepted:

- i. **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 ACGME-accredited Residency or fellowship program or any program approved by the ECFMG.

