



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
SANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION VISA POLICY

The Sanford School of Medicine accepts the following types of visas:

1. J-1 Visa – Alien Physician: the standard visa for residents/fellows who are not United States citizens or permanent residents. This visa is issued by the Education Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)
2. H-1B Visa: requires GME approval (read H-1B Visa Procedure below).
3. Permanent Residence Application or Pending Application: candidates must possess an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card. EAD cards must be renewed annually.

Copies of approved visa documents/EAD card must be provided with a correctly processed I-9 form prior to the agreement start date. Failure to meet this deadline voids the agreement and jeopardizes the candidate's ability to become a part of the program.

PROCEDURE

J-1 Visa – Alien Physician

Candidates must fill out the appropriate J-1 Application on the ECFMG website and submit to the Program Coordinator on an annual basis before the expiration date listed on the DS-2019. Application materials can be found on the [ECFMG](#) website.

If a resident/fellow with a J-1 visa wishes to do an elective or away rotation to a site other than Avera, Sanford, or the VA, special permission must be obtained from ECFMG. Contact the GME office for more information.

H-1B Visa Procedure

At the discretion of the individual training programs, the H-1B visa may be considered for candidates who meet the eligibility and selection requirements **and** have passed the USMLE Step 3 exam. At the time of interview, the program should provide all applicants with a copy of the institutional visa policy and the program-specific information on offering H-1B visas.

Training programs are responsible for costs and fees associated with preparing and filing H-1B visas for residents/fellows. The fee for expedited processing is the responsibility of the incoming resident/fellow. Training programs are required to use outside legal counsel or the services of the HR department of SSOM to navigate this process.

If a training program terminates or non-renews a resident/fellow appointment before the individual's H-1B visa expires, the training program is responsible under U.S. Citizenship and

Immigration Services regulations to pay the H-1B physician's airfare back to his/her home country.

Moonlighting

- a) Residents/fellows with J-1 visas are not allowed to moonlight.
- b) Residents/fellows with H-1B visas must obtain a separate H-1B visa for each facility outside of the training program.

Adopted Date: 2010
Revised Date(s): 2012