



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 will also be covered by the training program. 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): 2023

Latest Renewal Date: 2023