

Non-U.S. Citizen Visa Requirements

University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Graduate Medical Education Office

Applicants who are not U.S. citizens must acquire or currently hold one of the following to begin training at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics (UWHCA) in a ACGME accredited residency or fellowship program.

- Lawful Permanent Resident (“Green Card”) Authorizes the card holder the right to live and work in the United States indefinitely.
- Initial or continuation J-1 Alien Physician (Clinical Training Program)
The J-1 Alien Physician visa is sponsored by Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) for the sole purpose of Graduate Medical Education training. An “*alien physician is*” a foreign medical graduate seeking to pursue graduate medical education training from an accredited school.
ECFMG will not sponsor an individual for longer than seven years. J visa holders are not permitted to moonlight (internal or external). They cannot participate in any activities outside the approved training program nor are they eligible to receive any monies that are not part of the approved training program stipend.

Review the EVSP Reference Guide, <http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/index.html>, for more detailed information about the J-1 Physician.
- Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
The applicant has a pending Petition for Permanent Residence status

Additional Visa Information

- Canadian Citizens and Landed Immigrants
Canadian citizens applying for J-1 or- J-2 visa status are not required to obtain a visa stamp at a U.S. Consulate to enter the United States. However, Canadian citizens must use Form DS-2019 to secure J status at a U.S. port of entry. All J-1 applicants may enter the United States up to 30 days prior to the program start date identified on Form DS-2019. www.ecfm.org/evsp/j1-canadian-citizens.pdf
- Visa Change of Status - **J-1 “research scholar” to J-1 “alien physician”**
A change in category from “research scholar” to “alien physician” is possible under certain circumstances. It requires pre-approval from the DoS and must be initiated by ECFMG. The requirements for a change of category request and other details are outlined on the ECFMG website at <http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/evspcocmemo.pdf>.
- H-1B visa (temporary professional worker)
As an employer, UWHCA does not sponsor a H-1B visa for graduate medical education training.
- OPT (optional practical training)
This visa is not meant to be used for graduate medical education training. It is a work benefit allowed to international students in F-1 immigration status who are enrolled in, or completing a degree program in the U.S.

Contact the Graduate Medical Education Office at uwgme@uwhealth.org.