



## Policy on J-1 Visa Recognition

### BACKGROUND

In July 2003 the U.S. Department of State and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) formally recognized J-1 visa sponsorship for international medical school graduates pursuing post-graduate training in United States clinical programs that are directly associated with Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) programs, but not independently accredited by ACGME. Physicians seeking a J-1 visa by means of this path are required to obtain a letter of support from the appropriate ABMS specialty board.

### POLICY

It is the policy of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) that the sponsoring training program and the applicant submit documentation of the following when seeking ABEM's recognition of the non-standard training program for the purpose of the J-1 visa.

#### Documentation Required of the Non-Standard Training Program

- The program's institutional sponsor is in full compliance with ACGME institutional requirements as evidenced by a "Favorable" action on its most recent institutional review.
- All accreditable programs within the institution are in good standing with the ACGME.
- The Graduate Medical Education Committee of the institutional sponsor affirms in writing that it approves of the program after review of the program's description.
- The proposed training program provides verification that it is directly associated with an ACGME-accredited program. This verification must be provided by the program director of the accredited program.
- A detailed description of the program specifying the educational objectives, core curriculum, the nature of supervision, the method of evaluation, and the duration of the program.
- A separate letter of support from the department chair, if different than the program director.

Documentation Required of the J-1 Visa Applicant

- A letter from the applicant's home country's Ministry of Health confirming the need for the specific subspecialty training and confirming the applicant has committed to return home upon completion of training.
- The applicant must submit a personal statement of educational objectives which documents a definite training program in the U.S. and indicates its application to the home country.
- Evidence of compliance with requirements for a J-1 visa application.

If the applicant fails to return to his/her home country for at least two (2) years following completion of training, no further letters will be provided to the non-accredited fellowship.

**PROCEDURES**

Upon submission of the required documentation to ABEM, the material will be reviewed for completeness. The decision rendered shall be final and binding on the applicant.

If approved, ABEM will send a letter of recognition to the program and the ECFMG. The letter will be sent over the Executive Director's signature, in accordance with the relevant ABMS policy.

**EXCEPTION**

None

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