

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES

From the US and Canada

International medical graduates have many questions regarding eligibility requirements for a position in our residency program. Since it is impossible to answer every inquiry individually, we have compiled the following information to address the most frequently asked questions.

1. All applications are processed electronically through ERAS (Electronic Residency Application Service); we **do not** accept paper applications or applications submitted by e-mail. For further information, you may contact ERAS directly at: the Association of American Medical Colleges, 2450 N Street NW, Washington DC 20037 (Phone: 1-202-828-0413).
2. All candidates are selected through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP); we **do not** offer “*pre-match*” positions. Generally, ECFMG certification (including USMLE 1, 2-CK and 2-CS examinations, English proficiency, etc.) is necessary to participate in the NRMP; graduates of medical schools outside of the United States should check with the NRMP to be sure they meet the requirements for participation. USMLE 3 is not necessary for ECFMG certification or to participate in the NRMP; it is not necessary for Canadians who are considering a J-1 visa, but it is necessary in order to obtain an H1b visa.
3. Candidates being seriously considered will be invited to come for an interview between November 3, 2008 and February 6, 2009; invitations are sent weekly by e-mail beginning the last week of September 2008. The deadline for receipt of applications for the 2009-2010 academic year is December 31, 2008. All applications are reviewed regardless of the date they are received; because all positions go through the NRMP, applicants interviewed in January or February have the same chance of matching with us as do those who interview in November.
4. Final decisions regarding the suitability of the candidate for a position, as well as the ranking in the NRMP, are made by a committee composed of those physicians who participate in the interview process. The criteria we use to determine which applicants to consider are flexible and depend on the applicant pool available each year.
5. Preference is given to applicants who have graduated from medical school within 2 years of the date of application.
6. Preference is given to applicants who have had direct (“hands on”) in-patient clinical experience in a teaching hospital in the United States (e.g., as is often the case with graduates of Caribbean or Central American medical schools or graduates of Mexican medical schools participating in a Fifth Pathway Program); hospital-based observerships, “shadowing,” or working in a physician office is not considered “hands-on” experience.
7. Proficiency in written and spoken English is essential.

8. USMLE (Parts I and 2-CK) scores weigh heavily when applications are reviewed. We cannot evaluate an application until we have received both of these scores. We do **not** require you to have taken and passed USMLE 2-CS when we review your application, but a passing score will be necessary (by the end of February 2008) to enable you to participate in the NRMP. USMLE 3 scores are *not* used to evaluate applicants, since a large number of applicants will not yet have taken this exam.

9. The number of international medical graduates in our program varies from year to year. For the past 4 years (July 2004-June 2008), approximately 50% of our 16 interns have been graduates of American medical schools; the majority of the graduates from non-American medical schools have attended Caribbean medical schools.

10. At the present time we are able to sponsor **H-1b** visas for Canadian citizens. The applicant must employ an immigration attorney, and there is a considerable expense involved. The visa application cannot be initiated until after you have a job commitment (ie, until after the NRMP results are announced in mid-March). You must also be **ECFMG-certified** and have **passed USMLE 3** in order to apply for this visa; in order to begin an internship at the end of June, you should have your H-1b visa application in process by May 1. The Jewish Hospital is a non-profit, university-affiliated institution and is currently not subject to the quotas established for H-1b visas.

11. For American and Canadian citizens who attend medical school outside of their home country, we are often able to offer clerkships or acting internships to prospective applicants. This often provides the applicant an opportunity to discover more about the residency program, and, similarly, it permits the program faculty to know more about the applicant. These rotations must be arranged through the applicant's medical school and must occur while the prospective applicant is still enrolled as a student.

Please note that this information is provided as a **guideline** for you to determine how much your background matches what we are looking for in a resident as well as how likely our program is to meet your needs. *We are unable to tell you how likely it is that you will be invited for an interview or your chances of being selected for NRMP ranking, since this is dependent on reviewing your ERAS application and comparing you with our other applicants.*

Applicants are selected based on their preparedness, ability, academic credentials, communication skills, motivation, and integrity. Residency programs at The Jewish Hospital do not discriminate with regard to sex, race, age, religion, color, national origin, disability, or past military status.

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