

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES

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. If you do not see your question addressed here, it is most likely because we do not have a specific policy regarding that situation.

1. All applications are processed electronically through ERAS (Electronic Residency Application Service); **we are unable to 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) 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.
3. Candidates being seriously considered will be invited to come for an interview between November 3, 2009 and February 5, 2010; invitations are sent weekly by e-mail beginning the last week of September 2008. The deadline for receipt of applications for the 2010-2011 academic year is December 31, 2009. All applications are reviewed regardless of the date they are received; because all positions go through the NRMP, applicants interviewed in February have the same chance of matching with us as do those who interview in November; please note, however, that applicants who apply in November or December often have difficulty scheduling an interview because we run out of interview slots.
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.***
 - Preference is given to applicants who have graduated from medical school within 5 years of the date of application.
 - 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); hospital-based observerships, “shadowing,” or working in a physician office is not considered “hands-on” experience.
 - Proficiency in written and spoken English is essential.

- Preference is given to applicants who have USMLE (Parts I and 2-CK) scores of 85 or above. 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. We cannot tell you if we will consider your application if you did not pass on the first try, so please do not ask. USMLE 3 scores are *not* used to evaluate applicants, since a large number of applicants will not yet have taken this exam.
5. The number of international medical graduates in our program varies from year to year. For the past few years, approximately 50% of our 16 interns have been graduates of American medical schools.
 6. Applicants interested in a **J-1** visa are considered; these visas are sponsored by the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) and usually require the physician to return to his/her home country for two years after training is completed; waivers to this requirement are often available, but eligibility for this waiver varies from year to year. For further information, the ECFMG can be contacted at: 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104-2685. The phone number is: 215-821-2121. You cannot apply for this visa until you have a residency position.
 7. We are also able to sponsor **H-1b** visas. 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.
 8. If you are completing post-graduate work in the US, an **EAD** certificate is usually available and good for up to one year from the completion of your curriculum; this permits you additional time to obtain the H-1b visa.
 9. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer observerships or externships to prospective applicants.

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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Please consult our web page for more information:

www.jewishhospital-cincinnati.com