



## Non-immigrant Visas Offered to Medical Residents with MSHS

***(J-1 Clinical, H-1B, E-3, EAD) NOTE: All employment based filings must be processed through International Personnel.***

This notice pertains to incoming house staff who will require visa sponsorship in order to begin training throughout the Mount Sinai Health System. The GME office, your respective training program, and International Personnel office will collaborate to process visa applications.

Mount Sinai Health System will offer sponsorship of the following visa classifications:

1. J-1 Exchange Visitor Visas; or
2. H-1B Specialty Occupation Visa; or
3. E-3, Specialty Occupation Visa (only applicable to citizens and nationals of Australia).

**NOTE:** Employment authorization documents, “EAD”, will also be accepted where applicable/feasible on a case by case basis.

Program Directors, in consultation with International Personnel, will ascertain which visa classification they will be able to offer.

Please note the amount of time required to obtain a visa is unpredictable and can be significant. It is imperative you return all required paperwork and expeditiously respond to additional requests for documentation from your respective program administrator and/or International Personnel to ensure timely processing.

### **J-1 Alien Physician (clinical J-1)**

The J-1 Alien Physician visa has been the non-immigrant visa most commonly held by International Medical Graduates (IMGs) engaged in clinical residency training in the United States.

If you have been identified as a trainee who is going to receive a J-1 visa sponsorship, you must sign and submit your executed “Trainee Contract” along with a copy of your ECFMG certificate via New Innovations in order for the visa process to begin. Once your signed contract is received, GME/your department will send your application documents to International Personnel. International Personnel will review your application and advise if any documents are missing. Once the application is complete, it will be submitted to ECFMG through EVNet portal and International Personnel will advise you on the next steps.

It is imperative to follow instructions from International Personnel in a timely manner in order to avoid any delays. J-1 application processing time may take up 4-6 weeks for accredited programs and 6-8 weeks for non-accredited programs. For more information about clinical J-1 visa sponsorship, go to Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates at <http://www.ecfm.org>, or email Ekaterine Piccola from International Personnel at: [Ekaterine.piccola@mountsinai.org](mailto:Ekaterine.piccola@mountsinai.org).

## **H1-B Visa**

The Mount Sinai Health System will offer eligible IMGs H-1B visa sponsorship. The H-1B is appropriate for any professional employment position that is considered a specialty occupation which requires a minimum of a Bachelor's degree or higher degree in a specific field for a person holding the required degree and required license.

IMG trainees considered for an H-1B visa must be categorical candidates entering a training program of at least 2 years in length and who are (1) ECFMG certified and (2) must have passed and received USMLE Step 3 by the time of the announced match date.

In order to be eligible for an H-1B as a Resident or Fellow, a candidate must possess a degree from an accredited medical school as well as ECFMG certification based on the successful completion of USMLE Steps 1, 2, and 3 for graduates of foreign medical schools.

Please note non-U.S. citizens who graduated from medical schools in the United States and Canada are not considered IMGs. (Please see <http://www.ecfm.org/certification/definition-img.html>). Therefore, ECFMG certification is not issued to foreign national graduates of a medical school located in the US or Canada. However, Canadian nationals are required to have successful completion of USMLE Steps 1, 2, and 3 to qualify for H-1B sponsorship.

USMLE Step 3 is not required for graduates of the US accredited medical schools (pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(viii)(B)(2)).

If you have been identified as a trainee eligible for H-1B visa sponsorship, your program will coordinate to initiate an H-1B application on your behalf with International Personnel. Please note the completed H-1B application along with all the required supporting documentation must be timely returned to International Personnel by your designated program coordinator.

## **For all ACGME programs:**

Title 8, Article 131, section 6526 paragraph 1 of the New York State Education Law provides that a physician employed as a Resident/Fellow in a public hospital may practice medicine within the state without a license, if such practice is limited to that hospital and is under the supervision of a licensed physician. All Residents/Fellows in the ACGME residency/fellowship practice under the supervision of licensed physicians. Please provide copies of the supervising physician/program director's valid license and biographical profile, as well as a copy of the executed Trainee Contract.

**For non-ACGME programs:**

Valid State License or Permit to practice medicine is required.

**E-3 Visa:**

The Mount Sinai Health System will offer eligible IMGs E-3 visa sponsorship. It is limited to Australian citizens. E-3 visa eligibility is very similar to H-1B visa. The E-3 is appropriate for any professional employment position that is considered a specialty occupation which requires a minimum of a Bachelor's degree or higher degree in a specific field for a person holding the required degree and required license.

In order to be eligible for an E-3 as a Resident or Fellow, a candidate must possess a degree from an accredited medical school. While ECFMG certification is not specifically required for E-3 visa eligibility, it is recommended that the IMG has successful completion of USMLE Steps 1, 2, and 3.

If you have been identified as a trainee eligible for E-3 visa sponsorship, your program will coordinate to initiate an E-3 application on your behalf with International Personnel. Please note the completed E-3 application along with all the required supporting documentation must be timely returned to International Personnel by your designated program coordinator.

For additional questions, please contact International Personnel at (212) 241-8300.