



IMPORTANT NOTICE

***** PLEASE READ CAREFULLY *****

***World Directory of Medical Schools* Replaces *International Medical Education Directory (IMED)* for Purposes of Determining Eligibility for ECFMG® Certification and USMLE®**

Effective June 30, 2015, international medical students and graduates must use the *World Directory of Medical Schools (World Directory)* to determine their eligibility to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification and the United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE). Previously, ECFMG required medical students and graduates to use the *International Medical Education Directory (IMED)* for this purpose.

This change affects policies included in the ECFMG *Information Booklet*. As stated in the *Information Booklet*, the information it contains is subject to change, and applicants are required to obtain the most recent information to understand current policies and procedures. These modified policies may not yet be reflected in materials such as the *Information Booklet* and web-based exam application. The purpose of this notice is to provide international medical students and graduates with:

- instructions for using the *World Directory* to determine if they and their medical schools meet ECFMG eligibility requirements, and
- examples of the ECFMG policies that have been modified as a result of the transition to the *World Directory*.

Determining ECFMG eligibility using the *World Directory*

In order for a medical school's students and graduates to be eligible to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification and examination, the medical school must be recognized by the appropriate agency in the country where the school is located.

Eligible schools will be listed in the *World Directory* as meeting the requirements for their students and graduates to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification and examination, as described below. To determine whether your medical school meets these eligibility requirements:

- **[Search the *World Directory* for your medical school](#)**. If your medical school is not listed in the *World Directory*, you are not eligible to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification or for examination.
- **Consult the Sponsor Notes tab of your medical school's *World Directory* listing**. For those medical schools that meet ECFMG eligibility requirements, there will be an ECFMG note on the Sponsor Notes tab. If there is no ECFMG note on your medical school's Sponsor Notes tab, you are not eligible to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification or examination.

How to interpret "Graduation Years" in ECFMG note on Sponsor Notes tab in the *World Directory*

The "Graduation Years" listed in the ECFMG note are the calendar years during which the medical school has been operating and recognized by the appropriate agency in the country where the school is located.

- **Students.** If you are a student officially enrolled in a medical school listed in the *World Directory* as meeting eligibility requirements for its students and graduates to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification and examination, the "Graduation Years" listed in the ECFMG note on the Sponsor Notes tab for the school must be "Current," both at the time you apply and on your test day.
- **Graduates.** If you are a graduate of a medical school listed in the *World Directory* as meeting eligibility requirements for its students and graduates to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification and examination, your graduation year must be included in the "Graduation Years" listed in the ECFMG note on the Sponsor Notes tab for the school.

Examples of ECFMG policies that have been modified:

Medical school students' eligibility for examination

As published in the 2015 *Information Booklet*:

To be eligible for Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS, you must be officially enrolled in a medical school located outside the United States and Canada that is listed in *IMED*, both at the time that you apply for examination and on your test day.

Now that the *World Directory* has replaced *IMED*, this exam eligibility criterion is modified as follows:

To be eligible for Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS, you must be officially enrolled in a medical school located outside the United States and Canada that is listed in the *World Directory* as meeting eligibility requirements for its students and graduates to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification and examination, both at the time that you apply for examination and on your test day.

Medical school graduates' eligibility for examination

As published in the 2015 *Information Booklet*:

To be eligible for Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS, you must be a graduate of a medical school located outside the United States and Canada that is listed in *IMED*.

Now that the *World Directory* has replaced *IMED*, this exam eligibility criterion is modified as follows:

To be eligible for Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS, you must be a graduate of a medical school located outside the United States and Canada that is listed in the *World Directory* as meeting eligibility requirements for its students and graduates to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification and examination.

Transfer credits policy

For the purpose of ECFMG Certification, credits earned on or after January 1, 2008 that are transferred to the medical school that awarded or will award your medical degree must meet specific criteria that include the following, as published in the 2015 *Information Booklet*:

Credits must be transferred from one *IMED*-listed medical school to another *IMED*-listed medical school.

Now that the *World Directory* has replaced *IMED*, this criterion is modified as follows:

Credits must be transferred from one medical school to another medical school, both of which must either be:

- located in the United States or Canada and listed in the *World Directory*, or
- listed in the *World Directory* as meeting eligibility requirements for its students and graduates to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification and examination.

This criterion continues to apply only to credits transferred to the medical portion of the curriculum of the medical school that awarded or will award your medical degree. If you transferred credits only to the pre-medical portion of the curriculum of the medical school that awarded or will award your medical degree from an institution that is not listed in the *World Directory* or does not meet ECFMG eligibility requirements, you must provide ECFMG with a letter from the medical school that awarded or will award your medical degree confirming that the credits were transferred to the pre-medical portion of the curriculum only.

Applicants should refer to *Medical Education Credentials* in the *2015 Information Booklet* for more detailed information on transfer credits.