J-1 Initial Validations
Arrival and Reporting of Initial J-1 Physicians
What is Validation of Initial Arrival?

- ECFMG, as J-1 program sponsor, must:
  - notify the U.S. Department of State (DoS) of the arrival of all newly-sponsored J-1 exchange visitors
  - confirm each J-1’s arrival in SEVIS

Specific documents evidencing arrival in J-1 status are required before a SEVIS record can be validated
Who Needs to be Validated?

- All foreign national physicians who have *newly acquired* J-1 visa status must be validated.
- Foreign national physicians *continuing* under ECFMG sponsorship in the same or a different training program do not require validation.
Validation of Arrival

• Upon arrival to the training program, a J-1 physician must provide the TPL with evidence of J-1 visa status

Evidence of J-1 status includes copies of:

• J-1 visa stamp in passport issued by U.S. Consulate, unless a Canadian citizen
• J-1; D/S (Duration of Status) on I-94 card
Visa and Visa Status

**Visa:** The physical stamp affixed to a passport page that permits a foreign national to enter the United States in a specific visa classification

- May only be obtained at U.S. consulates outside of the U.S.
- Only required if applicant is physically outside U.S. and wishes to reenter
- The expiration of the “visa” in a passport will not affect a physician if he or she is maintaining J-1 visa status in the United States

Visas are not required of Canadian citizens entering the U.S. with a Canadian passport
Visa Stamp Issued by U.S. Consulate

*Entry Document Only*

Confirms

- Visa type/class
- Number of entries
  - Single or multiple
- Issue date
- Expiration date for entry
  - May expire while in the U.S.
Visa and Visa Status

Visa Status: The legal condition or manner under which a foreign national is present in the United States

• Determines an individual’s purpose for being in the U.S. and the objectives he or she is authorized to pursue while in the U.S., such as training, studying, or working

• Reflected on Form I-94 (Entry/Departure Record) which is issued at the U.S. port-of-entry to every entering nonimmigrant

• ECFMG sponsored physicians Form I-94 should always reflect “J-1” status with the notation of “D/S,” (Duration of Status.)
I-94 Arrival/Departure Record

Upon arrival to air and sea ports of entry to the U.S., foreign visitors are no longer issued paper I-94 cards.

However:
- Stamp is still placed in the passport
- Land ports of entry will still issue paper I-94 cards

Electronic arrival/departure record can be obtained at www.cbp.gov/I94
Automated I-94 Example
Paper Form I-94
Exceptions to Visa Issuance

Citizens of Canada are not required to have a U.S. Consulate visa stamp.

J-1 exchange visitors who change status within the U.S. through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will have a Form I-797, “Notice of Action” (not a J-1 visa stamp in passport).
Form I-797

Approval Notice

(CoS to J-1)
What to Upload for SEVIS Validation

1. Completed and program-signed *Initial Validation* form
   
   https://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/arrival.pdf

2. Copy of I-94 Arrival / Departure Record
   - Physician must print copy
   
   www.cbp.gov/I94
   
   - J-1s entering by land port of entry will be issued paper I-94 card

3. Copy of I-797 (for change of status applicants only)

4. Copy of J-1 Visa
   - n/a for Canadian citizens or change of status applicants

Documents must be uploaded to EVNet (TPL) or OASIS (J-1 Physician)
EVNet Search for Validated/Non-Validated Physicians
Validations
Non-Validated Physicians

![ECFMG Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates](https://www.ecfmg.org)

**Welcome Ann Dohn**

Search for applicants/physicians at your programs/institutions

- USMLE/ECFMG ID
- Last Name
- Pending appointment profiles
- Currently sponsored
- Validated Physicians
- Non Validated Physicians

**Viewing Options**
- Records per page: 10

**Export to Excel**

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Initial Applicants Facing Delays

Communicate with EVSP!

• Is the contract still valid?
• Program willing to wait? If so, how long?
• Visa delayed or denied?
Delays in Start Date

J-1s *must* start training within 30 days of arrival to the U.S.

- Communication with Program Coordinators & Program Directors
  - When and why to notify the TPL
Applying for a SSN Number

• Before applying for a SSN J-1 physicians must:
  1. Wait 10 days after the U.S. in J-1 status (or approval to J-1 status by USCIS); AND
  2. Confirm Validation by ECFMG of the SEVIS record

Applying for a SSN prior to SEVIS validation may cause significant delays in issuance of the SSN

• J-1 applicants receive this info in the “Welcome Letter” via email from ECFMG after initial DS-2019 form is issued
Travel Outside the U.S.

• EVSP Travel Information
  https://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/applicants-current-travel.html

• Request for Duplicate Form DS-2019

• Re-entry to the U.S. as a J-1 requires:
  – Travel validated DS-2019 Form
  – J-1 visa in passport as issued by U.S. Consulate*

* Except for Canadian citizens
Questions?

(215) 823-2121

EVNetAdmin@ecfmg.org