

In select cases, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) authorizes ECFMG to sponsor individuals as J-1 exchange visitor physicians for participation in clinical graduate medical education (GME) in the United States following a period of J-1 research. These individuals are granted what is termed a “change of category.” At the time a J-1 change of category request is approved, the DOS typically stipulates that the period of ECFMG sponsorship is limited to the training program, training institution, and duration specified by the DOS at the time of approval. Any proposed deviation from the approved pathway or training beyond the approved duration, including related subspecialty training, must be authorized by the DOS through a formal “sponsorship authorization” request.

The documentation listed below is required by the DOS and must be received by ECFMG in order to evaluate an individual’s eligibility to seek sponsorship authorization.

Required Documentation for Sponsorship Authorization Request

- **COMPLETE APPLICATION FOR CONTINUED ECFMG SPONSORSHIP**

The applicant may be applying for continued sponsorship in either an ACGME-accredited or approved non-standard training program. Requirements vary according to program type and are detailed on the application checklists at <http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/application-checklists.html>.

- **UPDATED STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES (SEO) FROM APPLICANT**

Completion of SEO Form. The SEO Form is available at <https://www.ecfm.org/evsp/applicant-SEO.pdf>.

- **CURRENT PROGRAM DIRECTOR SUPPORT LETTER**

Letter of support from current clinical program director/mentor clearly explaining how the revised objective and/or additional training will benefit the applicant.

- **PROPOSED PROGRAM DIRECTOR SUPPORT LETTER**

Letter of support from proposed (future) clinical program director/mentor clearly explaining how the revised objective and/or additional training will benefit the applicant.

- **ECFMG APPLICATION FEES OF \$570.00**

Fees include the \$370.00 regular application fee + \$200.00 for sponsorship authorization case review and preparation. Required method of payment is on-line through ECFMG’s OASIS or the MyECFMG mobile app.

- **DOS FEE OF \$367.00**

This fee is separate from any and all ECFMG fees. This fee should be paid to ECFMG through a payment in the financial account summary section of OASIS or via the MyECFMG mobile app. ECFMG will, in turn, submit payment to DOS on behalf of the applicant.

All required documentation should be uploaded by the TPL and/or applicant through EVNet or OASIS at the time of application to ECFMG. ECFMG will determine an individual’s eligibility to request sponsorship authorization from the DOS, once all required documentation is received. As individual circumstances vary, additional documentation may also be requested. The DOS reserves up to 60 days for review of and decision on any sponsorship authorization request.

It is very important that applicants remember that they are required to maintain J-1 status while a case is pending with the DOS.

Please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Fisher at mfisher@ecfm.org with questions about the process by which sponsorship authorization can be requested.