

ECFMG J-1 SPONSORSHIP: NON-STANDARD TRAINING

WHAT EVERY HOST INSTITUTION NEEDS TO KNOW

Navigating the J-1 visa sponsorship application process for an individual seeking to engage in a non-standard training program can be challenging. ECFMG seeks to partner with you and assist you in understanding the regulatory requirements and parameters. Please see below for important information and guidelines for the J-1 visa sponsorship of foreign national physicians in non-standard training programs.

What is “Non standard” Training?

Non-standard training programs are advanced **clinical** subspecialty disciplines or pathways for which Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accreditation and/or American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member board certification is unavailable. If ACGME accreditation is available in the discipline being pursued *but* your institution’s program is not accredited, the program *does not* qualify under the non-standard provision for J-1 trainees.

Program and Institutional Requirements

Programs seeking to enroll J-1 physicians in non-standard training must ensure that the following requirements are met:

- ABMS member board recognition for the specific advanced subspecialty discipline being pursued. A listing of “[pre-recognized disciplines](#)” is available on the ECFMG website. If the discipline being pursued is not among those listed as “pre-recognized,” a letter of support from the executive secretary of the appropriate ABMS member board is required.
- Confirmation that the sponsoring institution’s Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) has approved the non-standard training program and associated program description; GMEC approval is evidenced through completion and submission of the [GMEC & Parent Program Verification Form](#).
- Non-standard training must take place within an ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institution and at a primary site of activity for the associated ACGME-accredited “parent” program. Both must apply. *To search for a specific ACGME-accredited program and its associated “primary clinical site(s),” refer to <https://apps.acgme.org/ads/public/>.*

In addition, ECFMG must be provided with a copy of the GMEC-approved program description. The program description must provide ECFMG the following information:

- **Program Demographics:** Program name, program director name, and location (site of activity).
- **Duration:** The exact duration of the GMEC-approved non-standard training program, including any optional years or tracks.
- **Overall Goals and Objectives for Training:** The educational purpose and intended goals of the training program.
- **Clinical and Research Components:** Break down the general clinical and research responsibilities of the training program; if the program is greater than one year in length, define the responsibilities by training year.
- **Trainee Responsibilities:** Define a trainee’s supervisory and patient care responsibilities.
- **Supervision and Evaluation:** Describe how trainees in the program are mentored and supervised and describe the formal evaluation process used to assess the educational performance of each trainee.
- **Teaching Staff:** List all teaching staff involved in providing the educational experience and their supervisory responsibilities.
- **Secondary Facilities:** List all training sites where rotations are conducted.

NOTE: It is imperative that *all* submitted application materials carry the same name / title for the non-standard discipline being pursued. This includes: program description, ABMS member board support, GMEC & Parent Program Verification Form, and Statement of Need.

To learn more about J-1 sponsorship for physicians seeking to participate in non-standard training programs, please visit:
<http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/nonstandard-index.html>