

## Clinical Training Visa Sponsorship

UTRGV Graduate Medical Education Policy	Effective: November 1, 2019
	Reviewed: October 24, 2019

**Purpose:** Outlines the guidelines followed by The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley for individuals who require visa sponsorship in order to complete clinical training. Obtaining the appropriate visa status usually requires J-1 visa sponsorship by the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG).

**Policy/Procedure:** Program Directors and Coordinators must carefully screen applicants who are not United States citizens, prior to the match, to ensure that they fully understand the applicant’s current visa status and their expectations for visa status during the training period. It is recommended that the website for each residency and fellowship program include a statement regarding visa sponsorship that is consistent with this policy. These guidelines will apply whether the individual graduated from a domestic (United States) or foreign/international medical school.

Clinical resident/fellow applicants who are not United States (U.S.) citizens must have U.S. Lawful Permanent Resident status, asylee or refugee status, an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), or must obtain a J-1 visa sponsored by ECFMG.

If an applicant is unable to obtain the appropriate visa status or an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) by August 31<sup>st</sup> (or within 60 calendar days of the proposed start date for off-cycle programs and residents), regardless of the reason, participation in the residency/fellowship program will not be permitted.

Non-U.S. citizens applying for an ECFMG J-1 visa must be eligible for visa sponsorship under the criteria set forth by the ECFMG. A list of key regulations for international medical school graduates in clinical training programs on J-1 visas can be viewed on the ECFMG website: [Selected Federal Regulations for J-1 Physicians](#).

UTRGV will not provide sponsorship of permanent residence for international medical school graduates in GME training programs under any circumstance.