

Graduate Medical Education

POLICY ON VISAS FOR GME TRAINEES

- I. Acceptable Visa Types: Residents and fellows are not permitted to train under any visa statuses not cited in this policy. No department is required to accept trainees with visas. The Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) deems the following non-immigrant visa categories as acceptable for residents and fellows training in graduate medical and dental education programs at UI Health Care:
 - J-1 visas sponsored by ECFMG
 - J-2 visas accompanied by an Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
 - H-1b visas
 - H-4 visas accompanied by an Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
 - E-3 visas only for citizens of Australia
 - F-1 visas, accompanied by Optional Practical Training (OPT) authorization (first year of residency only)

- II. Additional Requirements:
 - Licensure - The acceptability of the visas cited in this policy is contingent upon the applicant being duly qualified and meeting all State Department and Iowa licensure requirements.
 - USMLE - To be qualified at UI Health Care and before a GME training position can be offered:
 - Applicants who apply for a J-1 or J-2 visa as defined in §I of this policy must already have passed USMLE Steps I and II
 - Applicants who apply for an H-1b or H-4 visa as defined in §I of this policy must already have passed USMLE Steps I, II, and III

- III. Communications and Deadlines:
 - Initial Interest - If a program considers accepting a resident or fellow on a visa, the parent department of the training program must communicate that interest as follows:
 - For J-1 and J-2 visas as described above in §I of this policy – communicate with the GME Office (GMEO) prior to the start of any processing
 - For E-3, F-1, H-1b and H-4 visas as described above in §I of this policy – communicate with the UI Immigration Office prior to the start of any processing
 - Delayed Start – All GME contract offers are contingent upon the resident or fellow having the appropriate visa by the start date specified in the agreement. If a resident or fellow is unable to successfully obtain the appropriate visa and does not arrive before that start date, the previously presented GME contract will expire as of that original start date, and that resident or fellow will not be enrolled into the GME program specified in the agreement. In this event, the Program Director must contact the GMEO immediately to discuss whether or not the program and/or institution can honor the previously offered agreement by the time a visa is expected to be issued. No re-issuance of a contract will be considered 3 months past the original start date unless the Program Director and GMEO concur. If the affected training program participates in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) and there is a delay, the GMEO staff must be notified immediately so an NRMP waiver can be implemented. The Program Director must inform the trainee of this policy.
 - All questions concerning this policy should be brought first to the GMEO and then to the GMEC.

- IV. Filing:
 - All information pertinent to a trainee’s visa, including but not limited to the trainee’s qualifications, departmental approvals, and acknowledgments, must be filed with the Graduate Medical Education Office (GMEO) at UI Health Care.

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