

## J-1 Visa Information

Any incoming trainee (resident or fellow) who is an International Medical Graduate (IMG) must be certified by the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) prior to the start of their training program. Please see the [ECFMG website](#) for specific information.

The J-1 alien physician visa sponsored by the ECFMG is the only visa excepted by HCMC residencies and fellowships.

### Eligibility

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) and non-IMGs (i.e. graduates of LCME-Accredited U.S. or Canadian Medical Schools) that require visa sponsorship may be eligible for J-1 visa sponsorship.

**NOTE:** All IMG J-1 Applicants must be ECFMG-certified before applying for J-1 visa sponsorship. Please see the [ECFMG J-1 Visa Sponsorship Fact Sheet](#) for more information on eligibility requirements, etc.

### Online Application and Supporting Documents

All ECFMG J-1 applications originate online via EVNet, and are initiated by the ECFMG Training Program Liaison (TPL) for Hennepin County Medical Center, [Judi Shurson](#).

The application process requires completion of each of the following steps in the order listed below:

1. TPL submits an on-line appointment profile (initiates the online application) through EVNet
2. The applicant will receive an email from ECFMG with instructions on how to complete the online part of your application via [OASIS](#)
3. Through OASIS, the applicant accepts on-line appointment profile, pays the administrative/application fee, completes the electronic application, and uploads any required supporting documentation

Please follow the steps in this order to avoid unnecessary delays in reviewing and processing your application at the ECFMG. Further information on the EVNet online application system can be found on the ECFMG website: <http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/application-online.html>

### Average J-1 Application Processing times

Standard applications usually take 4-6 weeks during the busy season (April, May, June, and July) and 2-4 weeks during the non-busy season. **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION MATERIALS EARLY TO AVOID PROCESSING DELAYS!**

### Additional Information for Initial and Continuing Visa Applicants

- Both **initial** and **continuing** applications must pay the application fee
- [Form I-644](#) for **continuing** applicants - The applicant fills out Section A (top) and the applicants **current Program Director** fills out Section B (bottom)
- All **initial** applicants **MUST** complete the arrival validation process as soon as they arrive to the country. You will receive further information about this process from the TPL

## J-2 Dependents

The J-2 visa application can be completed online if submitted in tandem with the J-1 visa holder's **initial** and **continuing** applications. The [Application for J-2 Dependent Visa Sponsorship](#) form must be completed when applying for a J-2 visa **at any other time**.

## Arrival Validation

The final step required in the J-1 visa **initial** application process is the [Validation of Initial Arrival](#). This step must be done **immediately upon arrival** to the United States. Waiting to complete this step could result delays in your program start date or with payroll.

## Additional Links and Information

[Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program Reference Guide](#)

Contains information regarding:

- Your role as an Exchange Visitor
- Categories of Sponsorship
- Qualifications for the Alien Physician Clinical Program
- Initial Sponsorship
- Example of a Statement of Need
- Travel
- Additional forms needed
- How to apply for Sponsorship

[DS-2019 Processing Instructions to Obtain Initial J-1 Status](#)

[Initial Sponsorship Documentation Checklist](#)

[Continuing Sponsorship Documentation Checklist](#)

## ECFMG Certificate Holders Office (ECHO) Website

[ECHO](#) is a new program created by ECFMG that provides support and service to ECFMG-certified physicians, and physicians who are about to be certified, as they plan their careers.

- Access ECHO's library of [Resources](#)
- Subscribe to [ECHO News](#)
- Send ECHO your [Feedback](#) on their services/website/etc.