
The J-1 Alien Physician visa is sponsored by the exchange visitor program of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) to foreign national medical graduates who are accepted by U.S. institutions to undertake clinical training/employment. Associated training/employment authorization is specific to the duration and activities associated with a particular training program. For further information regarding the Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program (EVSP), please review ECFMG's website:
<http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/index.html>

Exchange Visitors sponsored by ECFMG receive a Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status Form DS-2019 which is used to apply for the J-1 visa. A request for Form DS-2019 for clinical appointments at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H) and Texas Heart Institute (THI) should be initiated by individual departments and must be approved by the Dean of the UTHSC-H Medical School or appropriate THI administrative office.

Procedure

The application process requires completion of the following steps in the order that they are listed:

1. Obtain the appropriate J-1 Visa Application checklist and provide OIA with all required documents:
 - [Initial Sponsorship in an ACGME-Accredited Clinical Training program](#)
 - [Initial Sponsorship in a Non-Standard Clinical Training program](#)For Transfers (*if visitor already holds a J-1 visa status sponsored by ECFMG at a different institution*) and for continuing residents at UTHSC-H
 - [Continuation Sponsorship in an ACGME-Accredited Clinical Training program](#)
 - [Continuation Sponsorship in a Non-Standard Clinical Training program](#)
2. Upon receipt of all the documents on the checklist, OIA will create an on-line appointment profile with ECFMG.
3. The visitor will receive an e-mail notification from ECFMG to accept the appointment, complete their portion of the electronic application through [OASIS](#), and pay the \$275 administrative/application fee.
4. When the on-line process is complete, OIA will send the supporting documents to ECFMG for review and processing.

*For processing times please refer to the **Timelines Chart for Visa Requests and Related Applications** found on OIA's website.

Additional information regarding the process for submitting an application to ECFMG can be found through ECFMG's website at <http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/application-online.html>