

VISA INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES INSTRUCTIONS FOR H1B OR J-1 APPLICANTS

To be hired as a Resident at Maimonides Medical Center, you must fall into one of these categories:

1. U.S. Citizen (born or naturalized)
2. Permanent Resident/Resident Alien
3. J-1 Visa Holder
4. H1B Visa Holder
5. Employment Authorization Document (EAD only acceptable in certain situations)

ECFMG Certificate

Every Foreign Medical School Graduate must possess a valid ECFMG (Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates) certificate. If you do not have one, contact the ECFMG, www.ecfmg.org for an application. Any ECFMG certificate obtained after June 14, 2004 is considered valid indefinitely. Certificates issued prior to June 14, 2004 require a permanent validation sticker. If you need to request permanent revalidation, please use the 246-I form available on the ECFMG website.

H1B Visa Information (*apply immediately*):

You must have passed all three steps of the USMLE by Match Date to apply for an H1B visa. The normal processing time for an H1B visa is 4 to 8 weeks. There is a \$1000 premium processing fee if you do not apply by mid-April. If you plan to apply for an H1B visa, you should contact our office and our immigration attorney, Mr. Stephen Perlitsh, at 212-840-3878, or email stephen@perlitsh.com to set up an appointment. Your Maimonides department will pay the legal and filing fees for the H1B visa. If you have not passed USMLE Step 3 by the Match you cannot apply for an H1B, and must apply for the J-1.

J-1 Visa Information (*apply immediately*):

ECFMG has recently rolled out an online application system. As of 1/2012, you must submit your application through EVNET. Please contact Jennifer Hughes via email to inform her you will be applying for a J1 Visa. She will submit the first portion of the application online, and an email will be sent to your ECFMG email account prompting you to complete your online portion.

Please go to the web site: <http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/index.html> and follow the instruction therein. Once you have mailed in the application fee, completed the necessary forms and gathered all of the required documents, send the completed application to ECFMG for processing. (Link to initial J1 sponsorship document http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/SEVIS_init.pdf)

Once the ECFMG receives your application they will send a Certification of Eligibility (DS2019) to Academic Affairs. We will forward this to you as soon as we receive it. This certificate is required to obtain your J-1 visa for entry into the United States. *The application process can take up to six weeks from the date the ECFMG has received the completed application form and accompanying materials.* Therefore, to ensure acquiring your visa on time, please apply immediately and absolutely no later than May 1st.

If you have any questions about any of this information please feel free to call Jennifer Hughes at Academic Affairs at 1-718-283-6879 or via email: Jhughes@maimonidesmed.org.