UPHS Graduate Medical Education Training Program Visa Information

UPHS only accepts Visas in two categories: J-1 or H1B. The Office of Graduate Medical Education only sponsors clinical J-1 Visas. Any training programs wishing to sponsor a person on an H1-B Visa will go through the University of Pennsylvania Office of International Programs (OIP). All requests for Visa sponsorship for house staff must be approved through Radiology Graduate Medical Education.

All applicants requesting Visa sponsorship must first meet the requirements to obtain a Pennsylvania Medical Training License for accredited programs or a Pennsylvania Unrestricted License for unaccredited programs.

Visa Categories

**J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa**
Applicants who are foreign national physicians seeking ECFMG ([www.ecfmg.org](http://www.ecfmg.org)) sponsorship as J-1 exchange visitors for enrollment in accredited programs of Graduate Medical Education or non-standard training at UPHS, must, among other requirements, meet the following:

- Have passed USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK, CS (and/or an acceptable combination of the former FMGE, or NBME examinations);
- Hold a valid Standard ECFMG Certificate at the time of commencement of training;
- Be offered a GME contract or an official letter with an offer for a position in a UPHS accredited program of graduate medical education;
- Provide a Statement of Need from the Ministry of Health of the country of last legal permanent residence (LPR), regardless of country of citizenship. This statement provides written assurance that the country needs physicians trained in the proposed specialty and/or subspecialty. It also serves to confirm the applicant physician’s commitment to return to that country upon completion of training in the United States, as required by §212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended and is subject to a two-year home residence requirement after completion of the training program.

All J-1 visa paperwork must go through the Office of Graduate Medical Education for submission to the ECFMG. The non-standard training programs paperwork must be submitted to be reviewed and approved by the Graduate Medical Education Committee.

**H-1B Temporary Professional Worker Visa**
The H visa category is for the temporary employment or training of foreign nationals by a specific employer. The H-1B visa allows professional foreign physicians to work in the US in specialty occupations for up to six years. Training programs will apply program specific criteria for screening of H-1B applicants who are presently holding H-1B clinical visas and transferring from other clinical training programs.

An overview of this process is included in the application packets on the OIP website [http://www.upenn.edu/oip/iss/penn/h1b.html](http://www.upenn.edu/oip/iss/penn/h1b.html)

- The hiring department is responsible for initiating the application process on behalf of the beneficiary/employee. The Department who is responsible in filing the application should serve as the primary and main contact for a particular H-1B application. All questions to OIP-ISSS should come from the department contact person.
- Applicants must meet all requirements by the ACGME and/or the Office of Medical Affairs, and the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine for appropriate licensing.
- Applicants must have passed USMLE 1, 2ck, 2cs and 3 before applying
- For H-1B applicants entering a Radiology Fellowship, prior ACGME Diagnostic Radiology residency training is required.