

SOM OP: 50.14, H1-B Visas

PURPOSE: The purpose of this School of Medicine (SOM) policy and procedure is to establish accepted residency documents for IMG's applying for residency/fellowship training programs

REVIEW: This SOM Policy and Procedure is a General Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Sch

only international medical graduates with J-1 visas, or permanent resident status, into residency training programs.

2. **H1-B Visa Requirements.** Until passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1990 (IMMACT 90), it was clear that the "H" visa was for "temporary workers" and was appropriate for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) coming to the United States to engage in teaching, research or both at a public or nonprofit private educational institution or agency. Under the "H" category, IMGs were only allowed to undertake limited patient care that was incidentally related to the teaching or research. H1-B visa holders are not required to return to their home country after completion after the completion of their teaching or research.
3. **J-1 Visa Clarification.** Canadian and IMGs may qualify to receive graduate medical education and training in the U.S. on a J-1 visa under the sponsorship of the Educational Commission of Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). This is the only organization authorized by the United States Information Agency (USIA) to sponsor clinical graduate medical education and training. In 1971, USIA delegated to ECFMG the responsibility to administer the proper forms in all cases involving the admission, certification, transfer, or extension of stay for foreign physicians in "J" status who are receiving graduate medical education of training. The J-1 visa has certain restrictive aspects, including requirements that foreign physicians at institutions affiliated with United States medical schools enter accredited residency or fellowship programs, pass