Requirements for
International Medical Graduates at UCDHS

I. Foreign Nationals – Graduate of International Medical Schools
(Not US Citizens, Permanent Residents, Refugee or Asylee)

A. Visa – A J-1 visa is required for admission to UCDHS residency and fellowship training programs. The visa can only be sponsored by ECFMG, which requires passage of USMLE Steps 1 and 2.

NOTE: UCDHS follows the AAMC guidelines regarding H-1B sponsorship and does not support the H-1B visa for international medical graduates (IMG).

B. ECFMG Certificate – IMG must have a current, valid ECFMG certificate in order to be eligible for postgraduate training. To obtain an ECFMG certificate, IMG must meet the following examination and medical education credential requirements.

1. Pass Step 1 and Step 2 of USMLE. Step 2 exam has two separate administered components, the Clinical Knowledge (CK) component and the Clinical Skills (CS) component;
2. California law states that passing scores on the written examinations shall be valid for a period of 10 years from the month of the examination for purposes of qualification for licensure in California. Upon expiration of the 10-year period, the applicants may be required to re-take the expired examination.
3. Pass the English exam; and,
4. Meet all educational requirements as specified by ECFMG.

C. IMG must furnish a current “Postgraduate Training Authorization Letter (PTAL) from the Medical Board of California (MBC) when submitting an application for postgraduate training. Applications will not be considered nor interviews granted without this document.

II. U.S. Citizen, Permanent Resident, Refugee or Asylee – Graduate of International Medical Schools

A. Permanent resident, refugee or asylee must provide proof of resident alien status and have the legal right to work in the United States.

B. ECFMG Certificate – IMG must provide a copy of a current, valid ECFMG certificate regardless of citizenship
C. IMG with pending applications for Permanent Residency will sometimes qualify for a Work Authorization permit (EAD). A copy of the current permit must be submitted along with a copy of the receipt for filing the I-485 (Application to Change Status to Permanent Residents).

III. Foreign Nationals – Graduates of U.S. Medical Schools

A. Non-U.S. citizens, who graduate from a U.S. medical school, sponsored by an F-1 student visa, are not required to meet ECFMG requirements.

B. Non-U.S. citizens, who graduate from a U.S. medical school are not considered IMG and therefore can be sponsored by an H-1B visa.

C. The F-1 student visa is not permitted for postgraduate training at UCDHS and must be converted to a one-year Work Authorization permit (EAD) before the start of training. This permit will cover the resident while waiting for the issuance of the H-1B visa.

IV. Graduates of Canadian Medical Schools

A. Graduates of Canadian medical schools, who are not permanent residents of the U.S. are eligible for an H-1B visa sponsorship issued through the UCD Office of Services for International Students and Scholars (SISS).

NOTE: USMLE exam Steps 1, 2, and 3 are required for the H visa. INS will not accept the MCCQE and the residents must obtain a U.S. Social Security Card.

B. ECFMG certificate and English test are not required.

C. The MBC considers Medical education in Canada to be equivalent to U.S. medical education. Some Canadian internships are also accepted by the MBC as meeting the 12-month hospital service requirement for licensure.

V. Requirements for IMG Licensure in California – Foreign Nationals or U.S. Citizens

A. The following examinations are currently acceptable for licensing purposes in California.

USMLE Steps 1, 2 and 3
MCCQE (Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (formally LMCC Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada)

B. Two years of approved postgraduate training in any state in the U.S. If training is not in Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Internal Medicine, OB/GYN or
Psychiatry, IMG must have 4-months of approved general medicine postgraduate training.

C. Fifth Pathway trainees will be expected to present a letter from the MBC stating that medical school training meets the requirements for licensure in California. The MBC will provide these letters after a completed application to the Medical Board has been reviewed and evaluated.

VI. References

A. Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)
P. O. Box 828262
Philadelphia, PA 19182-8262
Telephone: (215) 823-2121
FAX: (215) 386-9766
http://www.ecfmg.org/

B. Medical Board of California
Division of Licensing and Applications
2025 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815
Telephone: (916) 263-2382
http://www.medbd.ca.gov/