



**J-1 Visa Sponsorship for Graduate Medical Education Applicants
Policy 035.000**

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/16/2026	LAST REVISION DATE: 7/16/2026	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT Office of Graduate Medical Education
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POLICY STATEMENT

Florida International University (FIU) Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Graduate Medical Education (GME) supports the recruitment and selection of highly qualified applicants in accordance with ACGME Institutional Requirements and applicable federal immigration laws.

FIU GME recognizes that sponsorship of physicians through the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program contributes to graduate medical education and patient care. When recruiting applicants requiring J-1 visa sponsorship, residency and fellowship programs are expected to prioritize candidates whose qualifications best meet program needs while remaining mindful of the institution's workforce mission and long-term physician workforce needs. Programs should make reasonable efforts to recruit applicants who are authorized to train and practice medicine in the United States without visa sponsorship whenever equally qualified candidates are available.

Approval of J-1 visa sponsorship is subject to institutional review and compliance with all applicable federal regulations, Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) requirements, and FIU GME policies.

REASON FOR POLICY

This policy establishes institutional expectations regarding consideration of applicants requiring J-1 visa sponsorship while ensuring compliance with federal immigration requirements, ECFMG regulations, and ACGME Institutional Requirements governing resident eligibility and appointment. The policy also supports FIU's commitment to developing a physician workforce that addresses the healthcare needs of Florida and the communities served by FIU's clinical partners.

DEFINITIONS

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J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa	A nonimmigrant visa administered for graduate medical education through the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) that permits qualified international medical graduates to participate in accredited residency or fellowship training in the United States.
International Medical Graduate (IMG)	A physician who graduated from a medical school located outside the United States or Canada.
ECFMG	The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, the organization authorized to sponsor J-1 physicians participating in accredited graduate medical education programs.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Office of Graduate Medical Education

- Oversee institutional compliance with applicable ACGME requirements related to resident eligibility and appointment.
- Reviews requests for institutional approval of J-1 visa sponsorship.
- Coordinates with ECFMG and institutional stakeholders as appropriate.

Program Directors

- Recruit and select applicants using established institutional and program selection criteria.
- Consider J-1 visa sponsorship only when appropriate and in accordance with this policy.
- Ensure all sponsored applicants satisfy eligibility requirements before appointment.

Applicants

- Provide all required documentation for visa processing and maintain eligibility throughout training.
- Comply with all Intealth (previously ECFMG), immigration, institutional, and program requirements.

RELATED RESOURCES

- [ACGME Institutional Requirements – Resident/Fellow Eligibility and Appointment.](#)
- [Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates \(ECFMG\) Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program.](#)
- [FIU GME Recruitment and Selection Policy.](#)

CONTACTS

Office of Graduate Medical Education.



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HISTORY

Initial Effective Date: 7/16/2026

Review Dates 7/16/2026

Revision Dates

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