

CONEMAUGH MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION POLICY

- Appeals to the Department of State (DoS): Applications for J-1 category changes, extensions in training beyond 7 years, and advisory opinions will take additional time for review by the ECFMG and DoS beyond the time allowed for standard applications, and may take up to six (6) months.
- Fees: Exchange Visitors are responsible for all initial application fees and other registration costs.

F-1 Student Visa

Foreign nationals who attended a US medical school on an F-1 visa may apply for a year of Optional Practical Training (OPT) through their medical school. Processing typically takes 3 months. The OPT year provides students sponsored on an F-1 visa with an opportunity for hands-on work experiences complementary to their academic field of study for up to 12-months. During this period the trainee will still be considered an F-1 student and will be issued an Employee Authorization Document (EAD) card. Prior to the end of 12-month OPT period, the trainee will need to apply for another type of visa in order to continue in the training program.

Reporting and Compliance

Programs are responsible for notifying the GME Office of any changes to a J-1 resident/fellow appointment as soon as the planned change is identified in order to provide accurate reporting of visa status to the ECFMG, US Citizenship and Immigration (USCIS), and other government agencies, as applicable. This includes extended leave, adjustments to appointment end dates, and petitions for changes to visa status including approval of permanent residency.

References

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) (www.ecfm.org)
Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program (EVSP) (www.ecfm.org/evsp/)

GMEC Revised: 3/2018

GMEC Approved: 10/20/2016, 5/2018