

## Creighton University School of Medicine-Phoenix Policies

POLICY:	Visas
GOVERNING BODY:	Graduate Medical Education Committee – Creighton University School of Medicine-Phoenix
GMEC APPROVAL DATE:	August 5, 2024; August 7, 2023; February 6, 2023
REVISED DATE:	August 5, 2024
ACGME ACCREDITATION STANDARD REFERENCE:	Institutional Requirement: IV.B.2.c) (1) International Medical School Graduates Common Program Requirement: III.A. Resident Appointments; Eligibility Requirements

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### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all non-citizens applying to residency and fellowship programs at Creighton University School of Medicine-Phoenix (CUSOM-PHX) have a valid visa or employment status.

### SCOPE

The policy applies to all CUSOM-PHX House Staff Physicians (HSP) and their respective training programs, that are Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited or meet the criteria in the Non-ACGME Accredited Program Policy.

### DEFINITIONS

**J-1 Visa:** Temporary nonimmigrant visa reserved for participants in the Exchange Visitor Program. As a public diplomacy initiative of the U.S. Department of State, the Exchange Visitor Program was established to enhance international exchange and mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other nations. In keeping with the Program's goals for international education, J-1 exchange visitor physicians are required to return home for at least two years following their training before being eligible for certain U.S. visas. A house staff physician may be in the United States in J-1 status for a maximum of seven years.

**House Staff Physician (HSP):** Any resident or fellow in a Creighton School of Medicine GME program.

**Training Program Liaison (TPL):** Designated by CUSOM-PHX Designated Institutional Official (DIO) for the GME Office, of any notice to take action, or intent to take action, related to their visa. The TPL is registered with the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) and this person's contact information is communicated to any HSP with a visa by the ECFMG as well as the CUSOM-PHX GME Office.

### SPONSORED VISA CATEGORY

#### J-1 Visa and Requirements

1. The ECFMG is authorized by the U.S. Department of State (DOS) to sponsor foreign national physicians as Exchange Visitors in accredited and recognized non-standard clinical training programs of graduate medical education or training or advanced research programs (involving primarily observation, consultation, teaching, or research). Exchange Visitors sponsored by

ECFMG receive a Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1 visa) Status (Form DS-2019). This document is used to apply for the J-1 visa.

2. Foreign national physicians seeking J-1 sponsorship to enroll in programs of graduate medical education (GME) or training in the United States must fulfill a number of general requirements, which are detailed in the application materials. At a minimum, applicants must:
  - a. Hold a valid Standard ECFMG Certificate at commencement of training.
    - i. CUSOM-PHX follows and adheres to all ECFMG J-1 eligibility and basic requirements for sponsorship, specifically in regard to USMLE and NBME requirements.
  - b. Hold a contract or an official letter of offer for a position in a program of graduate medical education or training that is affiliated with a medical school;
  - c. Provide a Statement of Need from the Ministry of Health of the country of most recent legal permanent residence, 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 Section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended. The J-1 visa applicant is responsible for all fees and expenses associated with applying for and obtaining the J-1 visa.

## **POLICY**

1. All non-citizens applying to residency and fellowship programs at CUSOM-PHX, in addition to meeting eligibility requirements, must either have Permanent Resident Status, an Employment Authorization Card (EAD), or be eligible to obtain an employment visa, J-1 visa, through the Exchange Visitor Program in coordination with the CUSOM-PHX Graduate Medical Education Office.
2. Foreign national house staff physicians cannot begin employment at CUSOM-PHX, or its partner employers until they have a valid visa status or employment status.
3. Any CUSOM-PHX foreign national House Staff Physician who loses legal visa status may be dismissed from the training program.
4. Any CUSOM-PHX House Staff Physician with a visa must immediately notify the TPL.
5. CUSOM-PHX does not sponsor H-1B visa for residency or fellowship programs. In cases of extreme hardship for current House Staff Physicians enrolled in a CUSOM-PHX accredited program, the DIO has the discretion to consider sponsoring another type of visa after consulting with appropriate offices at Creighton University and the House Staff Physician's employer.

## **REFERENCES**

US Citizenship and Immigration Services, <https://www.uscis.gov/> ECFMG, <http://www.ecfm.org/> ECFMG Non-Standard Clinical Training, <https://www.ecfm.org/evsp/applying-types-nonstandard.html> USMLE, <http://www.usmle.org/>, NBME, <https://www.nbme.org/> NBOME, <https://www.nbome.org/>

## **AMENDMENTS OR TERMINATION OF THIS POLICY**

This policy supersedes all program level policies regarding this area/topic. In the event of any discrepancies between program policies and this GME policy, this GME institutional policy shall govern.

Creighton University reserves the right to modify, amend or terminate this policy at any time.