

# Practicing medicine in the U.S. as an international medical graduate

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## The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates Certification

Through its certification program, the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) evaluates the readiness of international medical graduates to enter residency or fellowship programs in the United States that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

### Establish an Observership for International Medical Graduates

An Observership Program is designed to familiarize International Medical Graduates (IMG) to American medicine practice as they experience a hospital-based residency program. Find information about how to establish an observership program for IMGs.

### Residency Program Requirements for International Medical Graduates

After ECFMG certification, physicians who wish to practice medicine in the United States must complete an accredited residency training program in the United States or Canada. This process will take at least 3 years. The physician will have to complete a residency program regardless of the training he or she has received overseas.

### Immigration Information for International Medical Graduates

IMGs who seek entry into U.S. programs of Graduate Medical Education must obtain a visa that permits clinical training to provide medical services.

### Licensure requirements for International Medical Graduates

Every medical graduate must apply for a license in the state(s) in which they intend to practice. Generally, you have to complete 1–3 years of residency or years of practice outside of the United States or Canada before applying for a license.



## State Licensure Board Requirements for International Medical Graduates

State licensure requirements vary by state. IMGs should consult each state's requirements before beginning the licensure process.