

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Medical School

GMEC POLICY STATEMENT – *ECFMG Certification of House Staff*

Approved by GMEC: December 9, 2015

Effective: July 1, 2016

Policy

A valid ECFMG certificate is required of all International Medical School graduates prior to commencement of any UTHealth GME residency or fellowship program.

Background

This policy pertains to Residents and Clinical Fellows who have completed their medical education outside of the United States and Canada, i.e., International Medical Graduates (IMGs).

Medical schools outside the United States and Canada vary in educational standards, curricula, and evaluation methods. The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), through its program of certification, assesses whether physicians graduating from these schools are ready to enter programs of graduate medical education in the United States. Applicants must document the completion of all requirements for, and receipt of, the final medical diploma. ECFMG verifies each applicant's medical school diploma with the appropriate officials of the medical school that issued the diploma and requests that the medical school provide the final medical school transcript to ECFMG.

1. ECFMG Certification is required before applying to take Step 3 of the USMLE.
2. In the United States, to obtain a license to practice medicine, physicians must apply directly to the jurisdiction in which they plan to practice. State medical licensing boards in the United States require that IMGs applying for unrestricted licensure be certified by ECFMG.
3. Almost all board certification exams require the applicant hold an un-restricted license somewhere in the United States.
4. ACGME tracks board certification passage rates.
5. ECFMG completes primary source verification of medical school graduation.
6. IMG's must be ECFMG certified to be CMS reimbursable for our funding hospitals.