

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

GMEC POLICY STATEMENT – *U.S. Visa Sponsorship for Residents and Fellows in GME Programs*

Effective: July 28, 2005; Revised December 1, 2013; Revised March 2020

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Residency and Fellowship Programs accept international physicians who meet the requisite eligibility and selection requirements.

The preferred visa for International physicians is the J-1 clinical visa sponsored by the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) in order to participate in a GME program.

H-1B visas are not sponsored by UTHealth for GME Programs.

All trainees accepted to a program including International physicians must demonstrate eligibility to begin training in accordance with the U.S. Government Employment Eligibility requirements as outlined in the I-9 regulations.

All international medical graduates (IMGs) who are not graduates of LCME or Canadian Medical Schools must obtain ECFMG Certification before entry into a GME program. The ECFMG certificate provides assurance that IMGs have met minimum standards of eligibility required to enter programs.

Immigration policy and regulation changes often, and thus non-citizen medical residents must maintain communication with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Office of International Affairs, which will provide administrative oversight and support for all visa-related matters. If a non-citizen trainee loses or violates lawful status, he/she may be terminated from the training program.

Approved by the GMEC: January 22, 2014

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