

# RESIDENT HANDBOOK

## SECTION VII: GME OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES

### VISA AND ELIGIBILITY OF RESIDENTS

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#### ELIGIBILITY OF RESIDENTS

- I. Federal law obliges the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV to verify the identification and work eligibility of all residents and fellows prior to allowing them to participate in residency or fellowship training programs. This verification is performed by the school of medicine's human resources department.
- II. New residents will not be eligible for stipend, nor be allowed to participate in the residency in any capacity, prior to supplying appropriate documentation verifying their eligibility.
- III. It is the responsibility of the resident to obtain and maintain a visa allowing participation in a residency-training program.
- IV. If at any time within the term of the agreement the resident ceases to maintain appropriate work authorization, the agreement may be terminated. Residents without a valid visa cannot participate in clinical activities (including observation) but may participate in research at the discretion of the program director.
- V. Residency program personnel will not discriminate against an applicant on the basis of national origin or citizenship.
- VI. Limitations imposed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service shall govern visa-sponsored international foreign graduates' participation in moonlighting activities. It is the trainees' responsibility to understand and comply fully with any such limitations.

#### VISA SPONSORSHIP AT THE KIRK KERKORIAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Visas will be accepted as listed below:

- I. Individuals eligible for EAD (Employment Authorization Document)
- II. Individuals eligible for OPT (Optional Practical Training) – are those graduates who studied at US medical schools on F1 visas.
- III. Individuals eligible for J-1 visas - The J-1 Exchange-Visitor visa, is intended for educational purposes. The holder of a J-1 visa is required to return to his/her home country following completion of the residency training program. The Office of Graduate Medical Education (GME) will support J-1 Visa applications for residents and fellows through sponsorship by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). Institutional costs are the responsibility of the clinical department. Residents are responsible for the costs associated with obtaining J-1 visas.
- IV. Individuals eligible for H-1B visas
  - a. Candidates for residency positions who wish to be accepted with H-1B visa status will be considered only on a case by case basis.

- b. While all Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine GME programs will be permitted to screen, interview and accept candidates with H-1B visas, there will be no requirement that they do so. In general, such candidates would need to possess qualifications considered exceptional by the accepting GME program.
- c. Any institutional costs will be the responsibility of the sponsoring department. Candidates will be required to request and pay all additional costs required for an expedited review by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- d. Candidates for H-1B visas MUST work with the university's [Office of International Student and Scholars](#) (OISS) to complete the necessary forms.
- e. If for any reason the training department is unable to obtain the H-1B visa, the offer for acceptance is withdrawn.
- f. The Sponsoring Institution for the H-1B visa will be Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV.

Approved by Graduate Medical Education Committee April 2017