

VISA AND ELIGIBILITY OF RESIDENTS

I. Eligibility of Residents

1. Federal Law obliges the University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Medicine 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 UNLV-SOM Human Resources Department.
2. 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.
3. It is the responsibility of the resident to obtain and maintain a visa allowing participation in a residency training program.
4. 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.**
5. Residency program personnel will not discriminate against an applicant on the basis of national origin or citizenship.
6. 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.

II. Visa Sponsorship at the UNLV-SOM

Visas will be accepted as listed below:

1. Individuals eligible for EAD (Employment Authorization Document)
2. Individuals eligible for OPT (Optional Practical Training) – are those graduates who studied at US medical schools on F1 visas.
3. 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 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.
4. Individuals eligible for H1b visas
 - a. Candidates for residency positions who wish to be accepted with H1b visa status will be considered only on a case by case basis.
 - b. While all UNLV SOM GME programs will be permitted to screen, interview and accept

- candidates with H1b visas, there will be no requirement that they do so.
- c. In general, such candidates would need to possess qualifications considered exceptional by the accepting GME program.
 - d. 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.
 - e. Candidates for H1b visas MUST work with the University's Office of International Student and Scholars (OISS) to complete the necessary forms:
<https://www.unlv.edu/iss>
 - f. If for any reason the training department is unable to obtain the H1b visa, the offer for acceptance is withdrawn.
 - g. The Sponsoring Institution for the H1b visa will be UNLV School of Medicine.

Approved by GMEC April 2017