Recruitment and IMGs/Visas

GME Coordinator Workshop
Tuesday, October 9, 2012
Presenter: Erica King
Recruitment and Visas/IMGs

- IMGs and Visa Holders are not one in the same!
- Both IMG and/or Visa Status info should be in their ERAS information
  - Note: GME Office does not have access to ERAS; please provide screenshot, etc., if you have questions about specific applicant
International Medical Graduate (IMG)

• An “IMG” is a physician who received his/her basic medical degree from a medical school outside of the U.S. and Canada, regardless of citizenship.
  – This includes any U.S. citizen who received a medical degree from a school outside of the U.S. and Canada.
ECFMG Certification

• ECFMG Certification assures residency program directors and the U.S. public that the international medical graduate (IMG) has met minimum standards of eligibility to enter U.S. residency training.

• **ECFMG Certification is required for:**
  - IMG entry into ACGME-accredited GME
  - Taking USMLE Step 3
  - State licensure
  - J-1 visa sponsorship through ECFMG
  - UMN policy requires certification
ECFMG Certification (cont.)

- ECFMG Certification MUST be obtained prior to IMG starting in UMN program
  - Can’t begin training until certified
  - Some schools have late graduation dates and trainee will need expedited certificate processing
    - Contact Erica King right away
Pre-Interview

• Identify IMGs and Visa Applicants as early as you can
• Ensure that you have a program/department policy on visas and IMGs
  – IMPORTANT! Institution Visa Policy allows for H-1B!
  – Share policy on your website
Interview

• Can ask if someone has employment authorization to perform work for UMN or do they need visa sponsorship?
• Provide copy of program/department and institution policies on:
  – Visas
  – Eligibility and Selection of Residents/Fellows
• **Notice to Interviewees**
• Visa Applicants and IMGs: use “cheat sheet” from GME (for program use only)
H-1B Visa Applications

• H-1B applicant must have MN residency permit (at minimum, or license, if applicable) in place before the H-1B visa can be submitted

• Maximum sponsorship is 6 years (w/ possible extension)
  – Can be issued in 3 year increments, determined w/ help of ISSS/attorney

• Programs must request permission from GME for interested applicants
  – Form found on GME website

• Renewal process coordinated with ISSS, not GME office

• Program responsible for all costs
  – Trainee cannot pay for visa processing, etc.
H-1B Visa Reminders

• If changing from J-1 to H-1B visa: J-1 must still obtain J-1 two-year home stay waiver!
• Submit H-1B visa application as early as you can
  – Earliest is 6 months before start date
  – Can hopefully avoid paying premium processing fee
• Program should choose attorney to use, not applicant
  – Attorney is to represent program’s best interests, not applicant’s needs
Quick Facts: ECFMG and J-1 Visas

• J-1 visa is preferred visa type for U of M residents/fellows
• ECFMG processes appx. 7,500 applications annually!
  – Majority between March and June (after Match Day)
  – Average application processing time: 4-8 weeks
• Maximum time one can be in U.S. on J-1 visa: 7 years
  – Avg. extension application processing time: 4-6 MONTHS
• J-1 trainee + TPL = complete application
J-1 Visa Application: Reminders

- Do not send ANYTHING directly to ECFMG! Has to be routed through Training Program Liaison (Erica)
- Offer letter or residency agreement needed for application
  - Residency Agreement is easiest: works for both GME and ECFMG
- Form I-644: Part 1 filled out by trainee, Part 2 filled out by trainee’s most recent Program Director
- Moonlighting outside of the program is NOT allowed!
J-2 (spouse/dependent) Visa Holders

- J-2 visa directly related to J-1 visa; any changes to J-1 visa will change J-2 visa’s status as well
  - Where is the J-1 training?
- J-2 Offer Letter required for any trainee on a J-2 visa:
  [http://www.med.umn.edu/gme/international/ecfm/gj2offerltr.html](http://www.med.umn.edu/gme/international/ecfm/gj2offerltr.html)
- EAD card required
  - Renewal process takes up to 6 months
J-1 Research Scholar Changing to J-1 Alien Physician

• Requires additional paperwork
• If changing visa status within U.S.—requires Dept. of State review and approval
• Contact Erica right away if incoming R/F is identified as J-1 research scholar
  – Requires extra processing time (average: 12-16 weeks)
Up Next: GMEC Meeting

• Mark Schneider from ISSS will be presenting and discussing H-1B visa information at the Oct. 23, 2012 GMEC meeting
Related Links

• ECFMG-EVSP website: http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/index.html

• IMG Page on GME website: http://www.med.umn.edu/gme/international/home.html

• H-1B Visa Information on GME website: http://www.med.umn.edu/gme/directors/h1bvisainfo/home.html
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