

From: Wendi Rife, Director
Office of Graduate Medical Education
and Housestaff Affairs

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is sent in response to your inquiry regarding the University of California, San Diego Medical Center, graduate medical education programs.

Immigration Laws

In order to pursue postgraduate medical education in this country, a noncitizen of the USA who is an international medical school graduate would generally secure a J-1 visa. This is required when the individual is training and is engaged in patient contact. To secure the visa, one must do the following:

1. Possess a current ECFMG certificate based on successful completion of the following tests or combination of tests: VQE, FMGEMS, NBME, USMLE. You must also pass the English portion of the ECFMG exam and/or the TOEFL.

Effective July 1, 1998, an additional exam will be required by the ECFMG. This is called the Clinical Skills Assessment.

Direct your questions regarding ECFMG certification and examination to:

ECFMG
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
USA
215 386 5900
Web Site: ecfm.org

2. Demonstrate proficiency in the English language through examination.
3. Secure sponsorship through an approved U.S. program, in accordance with ECFMG guidelines.
4. The ECFMG will issue an IAP-66 to the approved medical center. The document will be given to the international scholar and subsequently exchanged for a J visa at an immigration office. The duration of stay is limited to the time typically required to complete the training program in accordance with the published requirements of the medical specialty board. In general, the maximum stay will be limited to seven years.

Exceptions to the above occur when the international scholar is a citizen of the United States, is related to a U.S. citizen, or if the individual enters the United States as a permanent resident.

If the physician is interested in pursuing research, including incidental patient contact, this may be arranged through an approved University program outside of ECFMG sponsorship.

Brief Summary - Licensure Laws of the State of California

1. If an individual wishes to pursue fellowship work with minor-incident patient contact, this is permitted while registered under Section 2111 of the California Business and Professions Code (BPC). No state exams are required under this type of arrangement. An application is filed by the medical school and the applicant for approval by the Medical Board of California.
2. When a physician wishes to participate in a clinical internship, residency or fellowship program, he/she must meet basic requirements of the Medical Board of California.
 - a. To qualify to begin an ACGME-accredited training program in California, international scholars must have successfully completed:
 - (1) FLEX Component 1, or
 - (2) All parts of the Qualifying Examination of the Medical Council of Canada, or
 - (3) NBME I and II, or
 - (4) USMLE Steps 1 and 2 (or a NBME/USMLE hybrid).

The individual must also be **currently** certified by the ECFMG at the time of commencement of training.

- b. The physician must submit an application for licensure to the Medical Board and must receive a Postgraduate Authorization Letter from the Medical Board which authorizes eligibility for commencement of internship, residency or fellowship in an accredited training program.

You may request an application for licensure in California by contacting:

Medical Board of California
Division of Licensing
1426 Howe Avenue
Sacramento, California 95825-3236
916/263-2499

- c. Upon successful completion of either 12 or 24 months of approved graduate medical training (see page three, item 3) and any further exams required by the Medical Board, the physician should be eligible for a California medical license.

Effective January 1, 1999, the basic requirements for licensure in California are:

1. Certification by the ECFMG: ECFMG certification is required by the Division of Licensing for those who have not successfully completed the FLEX exam prior to June 1986. ECFMG certification is required by UCSD for any international scholar who wishes to participate in an internship or residency at UCSD.

2. Pass a written licensing examination

To qualify for licensure in California, international scholars must have successfully completed:

- a. All parts of FLEX, or
- b. All parts of the Qualifying Examination of the Medical Council of Canada, or
- c. USMLE Steps 1, 2, and 3, or
- d. NBME I and II (or NBME/USMLE hybrid) combined with FLEX Component 2 or USMLE Step 3.

USMLE is the only licensure exam that is currently being given. The test is coordinated in California under the auspices of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc.

Please direct any questions you may have regarding USMLE Step 1, 2, and 3 to:

Federation of State Medical Boards
Federation Place
400 Fuller Wisser Road, Suite 300
Eules, TX 76039-3855
Tel: 817/868-4000
FAX: 817/868-4098

You may also visit FSMB online. Their address is: www.fsmg.org. This web site holds very valuable information regarding the USMLE examinations, such as, qualification to take the exam and exam application forms.

Refer to page five of this letter for the acceptable combination of exams required by the Medical Board of California as a prerequisite to beginning postgraduate training in this State and to qualify for licensure in California.

3. Satisfy one of the following requirements:

In order to qualify for licensure, the physician will be required to meet one of the following requirements:

- a. completion of a minimum of two years of ACGME/CCME postgraduate training, or;
- b. completion of 12 months of ACGME/CCME postgraduate training **and** current certification by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties or a specialty board approved by the Division of Licensing, or;
- c. completion of 12 months of ACGME/CCME postgraduate training and successful completion of the computerized clinical competency exam (SPEX) in the State of California.

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4. Physician should be eligible for licensure

After successful completion of the points noted above, the physician should be eligible for a full and unrestricted license.

Applicants are directed to contact the clinical department at UCSD Medical Center, in which they seek academic appointment, to confirm the availability of a position and to request program application material. Correspondence should be directed to the address noted on this letterhead.

Thank you for contacting the UCSD Medical Center, and I hope this will provide useful information.

Sincerely,

Wendi Rife, Director
Office of Graduate Medical Education
and Housestaff Affairs

(11/00)

W/Fmg/FMG Ltr

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS RECOGNIZED BY THE
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA FOR LICENSURE

FLEX Component 1 + FLEX Component 2

NBME Parts I & II + FLEX Component 2

NBME Part I/USMLE Step 2 + FLEX Component 2
USMLE Step 1/NBME Part II + FLEX Component 2

USMLE Steps 1 & 2 + FLEX Component 2

NBME Parts I, II, and III (U.S. & Canadian graduates)

NBME Part I/USMLE Step 2 + NBME Part III (U.S. & Canadian graduates)
USMLE Step 1/NBME Part II + NBME Part III (U.S. & Canadian graduates)

NBME Part I/USMLE Step 2 + USMLE Step 3
USMLE Step 1/NBME Part II + USMLE Step 3

NBME Parts I & II + USMLE Step 3

FLEX Component 1 + USMLE Step 3

USMLE Steps 1, 2, and 3

Qualifying Examination, Medical Council of Canada

Pre-1985 FLEX (Minimum FWA 75% achieved in one sitting)

State Board Examinations administered before June 1969

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS RECOGNIZED BY MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA TO QUALIFY
FOREIGN GRADUATES TO BEGIN POSTGRADUATE TRAINING*

FLEX Component 1

NBME Parts I & II

NBME Part I & USMLE Step 2

USMLE Step 1 & NBME Part II

USMLE Steps 1 & 2

Qualifying Examination, Medical Council of Canada

*Passing a recognized written exam is only one of the statutory prerequisites, and other restrictions may apply. Check with Division of Licensing staff regarding training eligibility.

UCSD MEDICAL CENTER

FACT SHEET FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES

UCSD Medical Center offers postgraduate training positions in the full spectrum of medical and surgical specialties.

Physicians who are eligible for licensure **or** who wish to meet licensure requirements should submit an application to the Medical Board of California, Division of Licensing, for registration under Section 2102 of the Business and Professions Code, outlined below.

SECTION 2102

A physician whose application is based on a medical education acquired in a country other than the United States or Canada and who either (1) is a United States citizen or (2) has filed a declaration of intention to become a United States citizen or a petition for naturalization or comparable document or (3) was admitted or licensed to practice medicine and surgery in a country or other state of the USA wherein licensure requirements are satisfactory to the Division of Licensing, shall provide evidence satisfactory to the Division of compliance with the following requirements to be issued a physician's and surgeon's certificate.

- (a) Completion in a medical school or schools a resident course of professional instruction satisfactory to the Division and has been issued a document acceptable to the Division which shows final and successful completion of the course.
- (b) He/She is certified by the ECFMG.
- (c) He/She has successfully completed:
 - (1) All parts of FLEX, or
 - (2) All parts of the Qualifying Exam of the Medical Council of Canada, or
 - (3) USMLE Steps 1, 2, and 3, or
 - (4) NBME I and II (or NBME/USMLE hybrid) combined with FLEX Component 2 or USMLE Step 3.

Prior to commencing any clinical service in a hospital in California except as noted on page five of the cover letter to this attachment, applicant must pass:

- (1) FLEX Component I, or
 - (2) All parts of the Qualifying Exam of the Medical Council of Canada, or
 - (3) NBME I and II, or
 - (4) USMLE Steps 1 and 2 (or a NBME/USMLE hybrid).
- (d) He/She has completed two years of postgraduate training in the United States or Canada in a postgraduate training program approved by the Division, or;

Completion of 12 months of ACGME postgraduate training **and** current certification by a member board of the ABMS or a specialty board approved by the Division of Licensing, or;

Completion of 12 months of ACGME postgraduate training and successful completion of the computerized exam (SPEX) in the State of California.

SECTION 2113

This applies to the appointment of full time clinical faculty; practitioners who have been offered a full time faculty appointment by the dean of an approved California medical school.

Requirements:

The applicant must provide evidence to the Division that he/she has been licensed for a minimum of four years in the U.S. or in a country wherein licensure requirements are satisfactory to the Division, or has been engaged in the practice of medicine for at least four years in U.S. hospitals approved for postgraduate training. A combination of such licensure and practice is also acceptable.

The applicant must submit to the Division:

- (a) Letter of appointment from the dean of an approved medical school
- (b) Letter from the chairman of the department in which he/she will be serving
- (c) Evidence of U.S. citizenship or legal entry into the United States
- (d) Documents of pre-medical and medical education

Examinations:

The applicant may be required to take a written examination during the period of appointment.

Hospital Service Requirement:

Service in an appointment under this section may be accepted by the Division in lieu of the postgraduate training required by Section 2102.

Note:

Appointment under Section 2113 entitles the physician to a certificate of registration to engage in the practice of medicine to the extent required by his/her teaching duties as approved by the Division of Licensing in connection with the faculty position in the medical school.

If the physician seeks a full and unrestricted license in California, he/she must meet the requirements of Section 2102. The Division may in its discretion waive the requirement for the written exam.

SECTION 2111

Time spent in training, while registered under this section, does not satisfy the Division of Licensing requirement for hospital service. This section is not for internship or residency training and is specified for fellows, instructors, or exchange professors.

Physicians, who are legally admitted to the U.S., who seek postgraduate study in an approved medical school either as a fellow, instructor, or exchange professor, may after proper application to and approval by the Division and receipt of an appointment from the dean of an approved medical school, be permitted by the Division to participate in the professional activities of the department in the approved medical school to which they are appointed under the direction of the chairman of the department. Registration under Section 2111 is valid for a maximum of five years and must be renewed annually. Except to the extent authorized by this section, no such visiting physician may treat the sick or afflicted or receive compensation therefor or otherwise engage in the practice of medicine and surgery.

GRADUATES OF SCHOOLS IN MEXICO

UCSD Medical Center does not participate in the special internship program, fifth pathway, for graduates of medical schools in Mexico. Applicants who wish to participate in a fifth pathway program should contact the Medical Board of California, Division of Licensing, for further information.

To request detailed information regarding State requirements or an application for licensure in California, please write:

Medical Board of California
Division of Licensing
1426 Howe Avenue
Sacramento, California 95825-3236
USA

916/263-2499

ECFMG CERTIFICATION

The University of California requires that prior to commencing training in an accredited graduate medical education program in this institution, you must show evidence of current certification by the ECFMG.

(11/00)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAMS
(Internship/Residency/Fellowship)
Accredited by the
Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)

Anesthesiology
 Anesthesia Pain
Emergency Medicine
Family Medicine
Sports Medicine
Family Medicine/Psychiatry
General Preventive Medicine
Internal Medicine
 Allergy/Immunology
 Cardiology
 Cardiology-Electrophysiology
 Dermatology
 Endocrinology
 Gastroenterology
 Genetics
 Geriatrics
 Hematology/Oncology
 Infectious Diseases
 Nephrology
 Pulmonary/Critical Care
 Rheumatology
Medicine/Pediatrics
Neurology
 Child Neurology
Ophthalmology
Orthopaedics
 Orthopaedics-Hand
 Orthopaedics-Pediatrics
Pathology
 Neuropathology
Pediatrics
 Pediatrics-Cardiology
 Pediatrics-Endocrinology
 Pediatrics-Gastroenterology
 Pediatrics-Infectious Diseases
 Pediatrics-Neonatology
 Pediatrics-Nephrology
Psychiatry
 Child Psychiatry
 Geropsychiatry
Diagnostic Radiology
 Neuroradiology
 Nuclear Medicine
 Vascular Interventional Radiology
Reproductive Medicine
Surgery
 Cardiothoracic Surgery
 Surgery-Critical Care
 Head & Neck Surgery
 Neurosurgery
 Plastic Surgery
 Urology