

## Visa Policy

Graduates of international medical schools who are not permanent U.S. residents can only be accepted for resident or fellowship training on a J-1 Visa and must retain their J-1 status while training at UT. Exceptions to this policy will be made only under extraordinary circumstances. Requests for exceptions must be submitted to the Assistant Dean of Graduate Medical and Dental Education and should include the program director's clear explanation of why an exception to the J-1 VISA policy should be made. Decisions regarding exceptions will be made by the DIO on the recommendation of the Graduate Medical and Dental Education Committee. Programs must obtain written approval from the DIO prior to ranking or offering a position to any individual requesting a visa other than a J-1.

If a program matches a graduate of an international medical school, the GME office should be notified immediately in order to assist in expediting the VISA application process.

### Advice for J-1 Visa Holders

#### Visa Validity

The visa stamp in your passport is an entry document only. As a J-1 resident, you only need to obtain a visa stamp renewal if it has expired and you are planning to travel outside of the U.S. before the end of your residency. If your visa expires while you are in the U.S. and you do not plan to travel outside the U.S., your legal status in the U.S. is unaffected.

Your visa is no longer valid for re-entry when:

- The VISA stamp expiration date has passed
- You have used up all the entries allowed. Check your visa for the number of entries allowed. "M" indicates multiple entries; you may use your visa until it expires.

#### Visa Renewal

- Be sure that your visa is no longer valid. Most consulates and embassies will not renew visas that are still valid, even if the expiration date is near.
- J-1 visa renewals can never be granted in the U.S. For an appointment and a list of documents to bring, contact the U.S. consulate or embassy where you plan to apply for a renewal. For more information, consult the State Department's list of U.S. Consulate and Embassy Websites.

#### International Travel

- It is strongly recommended that residents on a J-1 visa remain in the United States for the duration of their residency program. If a resident is considering travel outside the U.S., prior to making travel arrangements, they should consult the ECFMG, the U. S. Consulate, and the Knoxville Bar Association for references regarding immigration attorneys.
- If a resident chooses to jeopardize re-entry by traveling outside the U.S. and is detained from re-entry, the program director has the discretion to recommend to the DIO that the Letter of Agreement for residency training is voided. If the agreement is voided, the resident must apply to the program director to be considered for re-instatement in the residency program.

Reviewed/Approved January 2006  
Revised/Approved September 2011