

CLINICAL RESIDENT/FELLOW VISA OPTIONS FACT SHEET

FOR CLINICAL RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS



VISA SPONSORSHIP GUIDANCE

The University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) offers J-1 visa sponsorship under the Alien Physician category for any matched and qualifying international resident and fellow. The J-1 visa for physicians is administered by the ECFMG (Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates). Under eligible circumstances, KUMC can offer H-1B visa sponsorship for residents and fellows. H-1B visa sponsorship is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and dependent upon a program's ability to sponsor. Prospective residents and fellows would need to confirm with their respective programs if H-1B sponsorship is available.

	J-1 ALIEN PHYSICIAN	H-1B TEMPORARY WORKER
WHO PROCESSES?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Program Liaisons (TPLs) at Graduate Medical Education Office (GME) and Office of International Programs (OIP) help with paperwork • ECFMG processes and issues DS-2019 document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KUMC university approved immigration attorney Bordeau Immigration Law files H-1B petition (OIP tracks and coordinates) • USCIS issues I-797 H-1B Approval Notice
VISA MAXIMUM DURATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 years
RENEWAL PROCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially granted for 1 year • Status extended every year (continuation process starts in February/March at KUMC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Not required for J-1 to leave the U.S. to extend status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially can be granted for 3 years with a potential extension for 3 years • Extension is filed with the USCIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Not required for the H-1B to leave the U.S. to extend status
KEY VISA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass USMLE Steps 1 and 2 • Statement of Need (SoN) from home country's health agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ For additional information on the SoN process, review the ECFMG's requirements (ECFMG-SoN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass USMLE Steps 1, 2 AND 3 • State issued license <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Registering with the Federation Credentials Verification Service may help to expedite the license issuance process
VISA FEES/COSTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$360 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ ECFMG administrative/application fee ◦ Paid by resident/fellow every year while on program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USCIS filing fees and legal filing fees apply • Per federal regulations, fees associated with the H-1B must be paid by the employer/sponsoring program
OTHER POTENTIAL FEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$160 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Visa stamp processing at U.S. embassy/consulate • \$220 SEVIS fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$160 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Visa stamp processing at U.S. embassy/consulate if H-1B is consular processed
PROS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick processing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ i.e. From Match Day, DS-2019 issued by May, J-1 visa stamp obtained end of May or early June • 7-year duration • USMLE Step 3 not required for initial sponsorship • Straightforward transfer process from residency program to fellowship program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility to seek work sponsorship after residency/fellowship training • Appropriate visa option for applicants initiating or in the process of applying for U.S. permanent residency status • USCIS Premium Processing Service available (guarantees a decision on the H-1B case within 15 calendar days) • Can be granted for an initial period of 3 years
CONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential delays in obtaining a Statement of Need (SoN) letter • Administrative processing or limited visa appointments at U.S. consulates could result in delays • Specific health insurance requirements • 2-year home stay requirement or 212e applies automatically affecting H-1B and permanent residency (family/employment based) eligibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For consular processed H-1Bs, delays could occur due to limited visa appointment availability or administrative processing at U.S. consulates • 6-year maximum duration • Delays and/policy changes with the USCIS that could impact cases