Graduates who obtain their medical degree from medical schools outside the US and Canada must complete some basic requirements to be eligible to practice medicine in the US.

**ECFMG Certification**

The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) through its certification programme assesses if international medical graduates are ready to enter Medical Residency in the US.

For an IMG to be certified by the ECFMG, he/she will have to meet the following requirements:

1. He/she must be enrolled/graduated from a medical school that is listed on the World Directory Of Medical Schools.
2. Must have passed the USMLE Step 1, 2CK and 2CS within a 7 year period
3. Must have a medical degree
USMLE®

The United States Medical Licensure Examination (USMLE) is a three step exam for licensure in the US. It assesses the ability of the physician to apply knowledge, concepts, principles and patient-centered skills for safe and effective patient care.

The USMLE is sponsored by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME).

**USMLE® Step 1**

The Step 1 assesses medical students/graduates on the basic science concepts and its application in clinical scenarios. Medical students who have completed basic sciences curriculum are eligible to sit for the exam. In India, medical students can give this exam after completing 1st and 2nd of medical school. It is a one-day computer based examination spread over 8 hours and conducted at Prometric Centers worldwide on appointment basis. The exam format comprises of multiple choice questions and the passing score for Step 1 is 192.

**USMLE® Step 2CK**

The Step 2CK exam assesses whether medical graduates/students can apply clinical knowledge and skills that are essential for patient care under supervision. Students who have completed the clinical subjects, usually the final year in India are eligible to give the exam. It is a one-day computer based examination spread over 9 hours and conducted at Prometric Centers worldwide on appointment basis. The exam format comprises of multiple choice questions and the passing score for Step 2CK is 209.

**USMLE® Step 2CS**

The Step 2CS uses standardised patients to test medical students/graduates on their ability to gather information, perform physical examinations and communication of their findings to the patient and examiner. It is a one-day exam that comprises of 12 standardised patient encounters and conducted in the US. The score is reported as Pass/Fail.

**MEDICAL RESIDENCY TRAINING IN THE US**

Once an IMG is certified by ECMFG, he/she is must complete Accredited Graduate Medical Education training or medical residency in the US which will take a minimum period of three years for completion.

Medical Graduates are placed in residency programmes through the National Residency Match Program (NRMP) on [www.nrmp.org](http://www.nrmp.org)

Applicant registrations start by mid-August and you have to apply through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). The application materials usually consist of the ERAS application, personal statement, letters of recommendation, Medical school performance evaluation (MSPE), medical degree and USMLE transcripts.
Upon review of applications, residency programs will invite students they are interested in for interviews. The more number of applications sent, higher are the chances of getting an interview call.

In mid-January, after completing the interview process, both applicants and residency programmes submit their rank order lists (ROL). Based on the preferences, the NRMP matches each applicant to a programme and the results are announced in mid-March. Applicants who did not match, can apply to unfilled positions on Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP). The final Match results are announced on 15th March. The Graduate Medical Training / Residency training will commence from July 1st.

STATE LICENSURE

Every medical graduate must apply for a state license in the state/s they intend to practice. The initial State Licensure requirements will vary depending on the state and will require the applicants to have completed step 3 either before or during the 1-3 yr residency training in the US.

IMMIGRATION

International Medical Graduates who wish to enter the US for Residency training/graduate medical education must obtain a visa that permits clinical training. IMGs who do not hold a legal status in the US usually apply for a J-1 or H1B visa for residency training.

J-1 Exchange Visitor Program visa sponsored by ECFMG

The J-1 visa is the most common visa that is used for residency training in the US. The J-1 visa is sponsored by ECMFG which is authorized by the US Department of state to issue J-1 visa to foreign nationals for residency training.

Upon completion of residency training on the J-1 visa, the individual must return to his/her home country for a period of two years to transmit the knowledge they gained in the US. Every individual on a J-1 visa must fulfil this criterion or must obtain a J-1 visa waiver to be eligible for a change of visa status such as H-visa/L-visa/US permanent resident etc.

H-1 B Temporary Worker

The H-1B visa is for temporary workers in speciality occupations who hold professional degrees. The H-1B visa has been extended to IMGs for residency training in the US. The individual must be able to meet all the specified criteria which includes appropriate authorization by the concerned state medical board, ECMFG certification and should have passed the USMLE Step 3 exam.

The advantage of the H-1B visa that it does not have the two-year home residency requirement as the J-1 visa.
THE BECKER-EDUPRISTINE PARTNERSHIP

EduPristine is a leading educational service provider for professionals and students - in the area of test preparation and professional education. It has been founded by industry experts with its headquarters in Mumbai and have office across India.

EduPristine has partnered with Becker Healthcare to provide the resources you need to score high on the USMLE exams and move ahead in your journey to residency training in the US. The team of experts at EduPristine will guide you throughout your journey from USMLE exams to Medical residency training in the US. It is your one stop shop for all the services you need to successfully enter medical residency training in the US.

Doctor’s Testimonials

Dr Shehar Awan, USA:
“I studied for USMLE® Step 2 CS individually, then I took the course, and took my test two days after the end of the 3 day workshop. Without a doubt, this course gave me the confidence I desperately needed. The course helped me in particular with focusing on key points in the history with helpful mnemonics, and the doctors made sure I completed FOCUSED physical exams. In turn, I was quicker with the patient interaction on exam day, and I had more time to write an excellent patient note. Furthermore, the feedback by the SPs with the H & P were accurate, and the doctors provided important critiques on my patient note. THANK YOU GOLDUSMLEVIEW. Not only for the golden stethoscope reward, but mainly for allowing me to pass my Step 2CS with high performance in all categories. This completes my resume to have a competitive application for the 2013 match!”

Dr Seleipiri Akobo:
“I am very happy I passed the CS exam. I am an IMG, graduated 1998 Tehran/Iran, took classes Nov 2012, took the exam Dec 5th in Houston TX, passed with high performance, very cost effective, could realize where I am in my preparation, practiced on my weak points after workshop till Dec 5th, I recommend this workshop, you receive an honest and realistic evaluation so you can take the next step and prepare yourself for the exam. Thanks!”

Dr Benjamin Abraham:
“The one I have had a very good interaction with has been USMLE® BECKER PREPARATION. I have spoken with Dr Lionel Raymon via email a couple of times and he is very cooperative, informative, and direct. He is uniquely versed in Biochemistry, Pharmacology, and Pathology and possesses a strong understanding of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathophysiology, allowing him to synthesize basic science concepts for the USMLE® Step 1 exam like no one else. This is especially important to me!”

Dr Madhav Sharma:
“I joined Becker after preparing for step 1 for almost a year. I had heard about Becker through Dr Daugherty’s posts and free webinars. Coming from India where teachers are totally different, it was a total new experience for me here at five classes. The pain they took to explain every student and making sure everyone understood what was being taught were the best things for me. Teachers were so approachable and I could ask even silliest of my questions. Had I not taken this course my score would have been much much lower. I want to thank everyone at Becker. You all are doing great job.”

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