



U.S Licensing Process for Foreign Trained Physicians

1

Request an
ECFMG/USMLE
Identification Number

2

Apply for ECFMG/
USMLE Certification
(\$65)

3

Take USMLE Exams
- Step 1 (\$880)
- Step 2 CK (\$880)
- Step 2 CS (\$1,535)

4

ECFMG Certification
Granted

5

Graduate Medical
Education Program
Application ("Residency")

*Check with each center for
state specific requirements*

6

Complete "Residency"
Program

7

Take USMLE Step 3
(\$830)

*in some states this may
be taken prior to
completion of residency

8

License to practice
as a Physician
CONFERRED



Disclaimer: This information is provided only as an overview. All programs, processes, and/or fees are subject to change. Please verify above information with appropriate agency or governing body.

**1****Identification
Number**

International medical students/graduates (IMG) must submit an Application for Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) Certification before they can apply to ECFMG for examination. The first step is to apply to the ECFMG for an ECFMG/USMLE Identification Number. You will need (a) an official form of identification that includes your correct and legal name and (b) the legal name and address of the medical school you attended.

**2****Apply for
ECFMG
Certification**

The next step is to submit an application for ECFMG Certification. The application fee for ECFMG Certification for 2016 is \$65. As part of the application process the ECFMG will conduct a primary source verification of the IMG's medical education credentials, including the final medical diploma, final medical school transcript, and transcript(s) to document transferred academic credits. Once the Application for ECFMG Certification has been submitted, the IMG may then apply for examination.

**3****Take USMLE:****Step 1
Step 2 CK
Step 2 CS**

Once ECFMG determines you are eligible to take the exams they will forward your registration information to the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). You must pass Step 1 and Step 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). Step 2 of the USMLE has two separately administered components, the Clinical Knowledge (CK) component and the Clinical Skills (CS) component. NBME will send you your Step 1 or Step 2 CK scheduling permit. Once you have this permit, you can schedule the test through Prometric, Inc (www.prometric.com). The testing day for Step 1 lasts about eight hours. The testing day for Step 2 CK lasts about nine hours. The 2016 fee for USMLE Step 1 is \$880 and the \$880 for USMLE Step 2 CK.

The Step 2 CS Exam is a one-day exam that mirrors a physician's typical workday in a clinic. The exam is focused on evaluating your ability to gather and interpret clinical patient data, your spoken English language proficiency and appropriate interpersonal skills. You will examine eleven or twelve "standardized patients" which are people trained to portray real patients. The Step 2 CS exam is administered by CESC in Philadelphia, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston. The cost for the exam for 2016 is \$1,535 and you must also cover the cost of travel and accommodations. The Step 2 CS application is submitted through ECFMG.

**4****ECFMG
Certification
Granted**

After successfully passing all exams, ECFMG grants you a certificate. You are then able to apply to Graduate Medical Education Programs or "medical residencies" as they are commonly know.

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GRMEP
Application

In order to gain entry into a Graduate Medical Education Program (“Residency”), applicants need to apply through Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) and the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). Your application will include; application or curriculum vitae (CV), Letters of recommendation, Personal statement, Medical school transcripts, Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE), Licensing exam transcript

The ERAS is used to transmit residency applications, letters of recommendation, Dean’s letters, transcripts and other supporting documents to residency program directors via the internet. ERAS is available to IMGs through ECFMG. The fee for ERAS in 2016 is \$97 for the first 10 residency program applications, more for additional programs. There is also a fee of \$105 to ECFMG for your ERAS token and an \$80 fee for transmission of your USMLE transcripts for ERAS. The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) is a service that matches medical graduates with residency programs. They take your “rank choices” and match them with the “rank choices” of residency programs. The fee for 2016 is \$70.

*** Each state has their own requirements to apply for residency programs. Please check with your individual Welcome Back Center.

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Complete
GRMEP
Program

Complete the Graduate Medical Education Program (“Residency”). Most programs last 3 years, longer for some specialties.

***Most states require that you complete the GMPE prior to taking the USMLE Step 3 Exam; most medical students take the test while in their Graduate Medical Education Program. Check with your individual Welcome Back Center for more information on the state requirements.

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Take USMLE
Step 3

The Step 3 Exam is administered through the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB). The 2016 eligibility period is from October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. The fee is \$830. Step 3 is a two-day examination; 7 hours of testing on day one and 9 hours of testing on day two.

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License to
practice
medicine

After successful completion of all USMLE Exams and GMPE, a candidate can apply for licensure. For most states, you may apply through the Uniform Application for Physician State Licensure through the FSMB. Check with your closest center for state requirements when applying for licensure.

Welcome Back Initiative
1600 Holloway Ave, #SS 321
San Francisco, CA 94132

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