



SIU SCHOOL *of* MEDICINE

IMG Orientation

Office of Graduate Medical Education (OGME)

2023-2024



Learning Objectives

The new J-1 physician will be able to:

- Identify the quickest method to process the J-1 visa
- Identify the correct visa status upon entry to the U.S.
- Understand the Validation of Arrival process
- Recognize the importance of filling out employment tax paperwork thoroughly
- Understand the application process for Social Security
- Understand the requirements for traveling abroad
- Identify cross cultural experiences
- Identify who to contact with questions

Visa Processing for Initial J-1

- ▶ **Schedule appointment at U.S. Consulate in home country**
 - ▶ If physician is in U.S., can apply for change of status thru the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Regional Service Center, however processing could take up to 4.5+ months.
- ▶ **Take original DS-2019 to appointment to obtain J-1 visa stamp (slide 4), could take several days to process.**
- ▶ **Canadian J-1s: present Form DS-2019 and supporting documents at the U.S. Port of Entry.**

Immigration definitions

“VISA”

- ▶ Issued by U.S. Consulate abroad
- ▶ Serves as an entry permit “stamped” into passport
- ▶ Expiration date only applies to entry (can expire once in U.S.)
- ▶ Typically issued for 1 year (thru end of PGY1 training)



Immigration definitions

“Visa Status”

- ▶ Issued at U.S. Port of Entry (Dept. of Homeland Security/Customs & Border Protection) or USCIS (internal)
- ▶ I-94 shows visa status & period of authorized stay
 - ▶ Electronic I-94 issued at air & sea ports, www.cbp.gov/I94
 - ▶ Paper I-94 at land ports of entry
 - ▶ J-1 I-94's must say “J-1; d/s” (*duration of status*)
 - ▶ **Please check your status before leaving port of entry to ensure it is correct!**

I-94 samples

Entered U.S. by land, air or sea:

Most Recent I-94

Page 1 of 1



OMB No. 1651-0111
Expiration Date: 11/30/2014

Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number: [REDACTED]

Most Recent Date of Entry: 7/10/2014

Class of Admission: J1

Admit Until Date: D/S

Must say "J-1 D/S"

Details provided on the I-94 information form:

Last/Surname: [REDACTED]

First (Given) Name: [REDACTED]

Birth Date: [REDACTED]

Passport Number: [REDACTED]

Country of Issuance: Nepal

[Get Travel History](#)

► Effective April 26, 2013, DHS began automating the admission process. An alien lawfully admitted or paroled into the U.S. is no longer required to be in possession of a preprinted Form I-94. A record of admission printed from the CBP website constitutes a lawful record of admission. See 8 CFR 614.4(d).

Validation of Initial arrival to the U.S.

- ▶ All initial J-1 applicants must report arrival to ECFMG
- ▶ J-1 physicians must enter the U.S. no more than 30 calendar days before their contract start date
- ▶ Training Program Liaison (TPL) will send Coordinator an arrival form to be completed
- ▶ Prefer to report arrivals once the J-1 has physically arrived to the program vs. vacationing off site.
 - ▶ Exceptions only considered if license has been issued.

Validation of Initial arrival to the U.S.

- ▶ Required documentation sent to ECFMG by TPL/OGME:
 - ▶ Completed Arrival form
 - ▶ I-94 showing “J-1 D/S” or form I-797 for internal change of status
 - ▶ Copy of J-1 visa stamp in passport (latter does not apply to Canadian citizens)
- ▶ ECFMG validates arrival in SEVIS (Dept. of Homeland Security Student and Exchange Visitor Information System)
 - ▶ SEVIS start date = start date for 7 year maximum for training

Onboarding with Employing Hospital

- ▶ Important email sent from Employing Hospital by the end of April regarding the onboarding requirements
 - ▶ If Employing Hospital requires an in-person meeting, be sure to respond ASAP to schedule.
 - ▶ Meet the required deadlines for paperwork
- ▶ J-1 employment taxes
 - ▶ If you aren't sure how to fill out a tax form, it is extremely important that you ask your contact at your employing hospital.
 - ▶ Be prepared to provide a thorough report of all visa statuses in the past 6 years; this will determine your tax status.
 - ▶ A J-1 physician may be FICA exempt when they start training, but it is vital to understand that you will not carry this exemption throughout residency and at some point your paycheck *will* decrease.

Social Security Administration

- You CAN start your training without a Social Security number (SS#)
- Apply in person: Wait 10 days after entry to U.S. & arrival has been reported to ECFMG
 - SSA will need to be able to validate visa information in SEVIS
 - Find the nearest [Social Security Administration office](#) to your program location

Social Security Administration

- Application to SSA - bring required documents
 - Complete Application for a Social Security Card (Form SS-5)
 - “Legal Alien Allowed to Work”
 - Original DS-2019
 - Passport
 - Form I-94
- SSA will issue a letter to the J-1 confirming a SS# application
 - Provide this letter to the program and employing hospital while waiting for the SS card to be mailed.

Travel Abroad

- ▶ Initial DS-2019s are not typically validated for travel
 - ▶ J-1 should never travel outside of the U.S. without a travel-validated DS 2019
 - ▶ Only ECFMG can sign this section

TRAVEL VALIDATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
(Maximum validation period is 1 year)*

***EXCEPT:** Maximum validation period is up to 6 months for Short-term Scholars and 4 months for Camp Counselors and Summer Work/Travel.

(1) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time

Date (mm-dd-yyyy)

Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer

(2) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time

Date (mm-dd-yyyy)

Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer

NOT travel
validated!

Travel Abroad

- Consider potential delays for return.
- Required documents:
 - Passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the program end date listed on the most recent DS-2019.
 - Valid J-1 / J-2 visa (for re-entry)
 - Original DS-2019 with travel validation

Travel Abroad

- J-1 & J-2 can exit U.S. with an expired visa, but can't reenter*
- If your Visa will is expired:
 - Renewing visa at U.S. Consulate prior to reentry:
 - Passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the program end date listed on the most recent DS-2019.
 - Original DS-2019 with travel validation - only ECFMG personnel can sign!!
 - Application fee
- Remember this can take time (days to weeks)



*Travel to Canada, Mexico, & Adjacent Islands of the U.S.

- J-1/J-2 not required to have a valid (unexpired) visa when traveling to these locations for less than 30 days, as long as hold valid “J status” in SEVIS.
 - This is “automatic revalidation”.
- To qualify for automatic revalidation upon reentry to U.S.
 - Passport must be valid 6 mos. beyond program end date on DS-2019
 - Must have original, travel-validated DS-2019
 - Copy of latest I-94 reflecting status as “J-1, D/S” (or J-2)
- Exceptions:
 - Visa not required for Canadian citizens seeking reentry
 - Citizens of Iran, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria are not eligible for automatic revalidation - must have valid, current visa
 - Not eligible if you have traveled to Cuba

Cross-Cultural Experiences

- Required: to gain insight into U.S. customs, community, people
- Examples: outings to community events, sporting events, local establishments, holiday celebrations, potlucks, department luncheons / gatherings
- J-1 must provide examples in renewal application process



Other required reporting

- ▶ Notify ECFMG and Dept. of Homeland Security within 10 days of change of address
- ▶ Leaves of absence - in advance of leave
- ▶ Dismissals / Appeals / Resignations
- ▶ Off Site Elective / Required Rotations
- ▶ Remediation - maximum of 12 months
- ▶ Serious incidents or allegations must be reported within 1 business day.
 - ▶ Serious illness, injury, or death
 - ▶ Missing person
 - ▶ Criminal justice involvement, abuse, or litigation
 - ▶ Negative press
 - ▶ Large scale situations impacting safety, such as a natural disaster or civil unrest

Moonlighting

- Moonlighting is defined as *work at an additional job after one's regular, full-time employment.*
- J-1 Physicians are not allowed to moonlight per federal regulations.



Contacts:

- Your program coordinator
- A Training Program Liaison (TPL) in the Office of Graduate Medical Education:
 - Annelisa Herter, aherter@siumed.edu, (217) 545-3134
 - Jennifer Rodgers, jroddgers@siumed.edu, (217) 545-3846
- Your ECFMG Regional Advisor: Beth Judas, 215-823-2121
- One of the SIU School of Medicine IMG Welcome Ambassadors listed on the next slide.



IMG Welcome Ambassadors



Mahad Alvi, MD
Pediatrics
malvi83@siumed.edu
Home Country: Pakistan



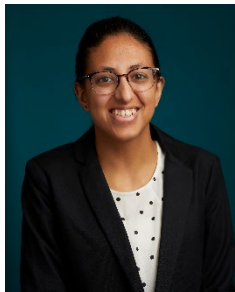
Daphne Mlachila, MD
Pediatrics
dmlachila57@siumed.edu
Home Country: Canada



Dorothy Okon, MD
Springfield Family Med
dokon86@siumed.edu
Home Country: Nigeria



Oyoyo Egiebor-Aiwan, MD
Psychiatry
Oegiebor-aiwan26@siumed.edu
Home Country: Nigeria



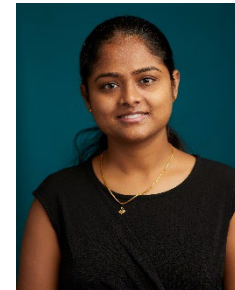
Traveen Singh
General Surgery
tsingh73@siumed.edu
Home Country: Canada



Krishna Taneja, MD
Psychiatry
ktaneja81@siumed.edu
Home Country: India



Saskia D'Sa
Pediatrics
sdsa83@siumed.edu
Home Country: Canada



Raveena Karthikeyan
General Surgery
rkarthikeyan53@siumed.edu
Home Country: India