



TO: Training Program Liaisons (TPLs), General Surgery Program Directors and J-1 Exchange Visitor Physicians Enrolled Categorical General Surgery Residencies

FROM: ECFMG® Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program

RE: Eligibility Requirements for J-1 Visa Sponsorship within the General Surgery Research Pathway

General surgery residency programs that offer or require **categorical** trainees to complete 1-2 years of research may apply for continued J-1 visa sponsorship under ECFMG’s non-standard provision. J-1 visa sponsorship will be considered on a case by case basis for programs and applicants who meet the following requirements:

- The proposed research pathway is a GMEC supported track within the ACGME-accredited categorical general surgery residency program
- The applicant is currently a categorical trainee enrolled in the ACGME-accredited residency program
- The applicant has been assigned, by the general surgery program director, to participate in the general surgery residency program’s recognized research pathway
- Research training will be completed at an ACGME-accredited institution and within a recognized General Surgery Research Pathway at that institution
- A viable educational plan has been developed and accepted by the home and host institutions
- The following specific application requirements are met in addition to all other application requirements outlined at <http://www.ecfmq.org/evsp/continuation-non-standard.pdf> :

ACGME-Accredited Categorical General Surgery Program <i>(Home Institution)</i>	Proposed Research Site	J-1 Applicant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of recognition for the research pathway from the ABS • Appointment letter from the home residency assigning the trainee to the program’s <i>General Surgery Research Pathway</i> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ pathway start and end dates ○ name of research mentor ○ location of the training appointment (<i>name of ACGME-accredited institution and physical street address where the research activities will take place</i>) ○ stipend amount and source ○ confirmation the residency program will have a categorical 3, 4, and 5 position for the resident to return to after the completion of the proposed research pathway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPL at proposed research site must create the appointment profile in EVNet • Completed GMEC Verification Statement from the ACGME accredited institution where the research activities will take place • An appointment letter from the research mentor • Description of the research activities including how the resident will be monitored and evaluated <p><i>NOTE: J-1 physicians are not permitted to function as a Principal Investigator (PI)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written confirmation from the applicant identifying his/her understanding that the proposed pathway will count toward the overall maximum seven year duration and no advanced commitment can be made by ECFMG regarding sponsorship beyond the maximum 7-year duration for participation in the J-1 program • Statement of Education Goals and objectives • Statement of Need Letter if letter on file is date restricted

ECFMG is not authorized to sponsor J-1 physicians who are presently sponsored in the J-1 “alien physician” category for long-term, independent research projects or programs.