# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**Subject:** J-1 Sponsorship in Non-Standard Training Programs  
**Policy #:** III.009  
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**Distribution:** Accredited and GMEC Approved Programs  
**Page:** 1 of 2  
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## Introduction:

There are three pathways for J-1 visa sponsorship:

1. Training in an ACGME accredited program
2. Training in a specialty or subspecialty where the specialty board offers a certificate
3. Training in a subspecialty, not offering a certificate, recognized by the appropriate ABMS board with a letter from the CEO of that board

## Policy:

The first two pathways will be sponsored by the ECFMG in the traditional manner. The third pathway will require additional steps by the resident/fellow, the department/section and the institution as outlined below.

## Procedures:

1. Institutional sponsor **MUST** be in compliance with ACGME institutional requirements. All accredited programs within the institution **MUST** be in good standing with the ACGME.

2. The program **MUST** be directly associated with an accredited program within the institution. This verification must be provided by the Program Director of the accredited program.

3. The requesting resident/fellow and Program Director **MUST** submit detailed program description that must be reviewed and accepted by the Director/Associate Dean specifying the educational objectives, curriculum, nature of supervision, method of evaluation and specific duration of the training.

4. Applicant **MUST** submit application of visa sponsorship to the ECFMG and include:
   1) Statement of need letter from the home country’s ministry of health **MUST** include the name of specific training program and promise to return to home country at the conclusion of training.
   2) Personal statement of educational objectives and how resident/fellow will apply this training when he/she returns to home country.
5. Applicant **MUST** submit appropriate documentation of approval of non-standard program by certification Board.

6. After approval by the Program Director on the ECFMG J-1 Non-Standard GMEC & Parent Program Verification Statement, [http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/evspvergmecc.pdf](http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/evspvergmecc.pdf), the Director/Associate Dean of GME will sign proposal to be sent to ECFMG.

The GMEC will be the oversight committee for these non-standard training programs. It will review all non-accredited programs for educational programs and approve the curriculum, educational objectives, and monitor educational versus service experience.