

# Graduate Medical Education: Frequently Asked Questions

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## FAQs for potential applicants

### Q. What GME programs does the NIH sponsor?

The NIH sponsors and hosts numerous [GME programs](#). The NIH sponsors 18 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited Residency or Subspecialty Training Programs through the [NIH Clinical Center](#), located on our 317-acre campus in [Bethesda, Maryland \(disclaimer\)](#). We also host 5 jointly sponsored ACGME-accredited training programs administered in collaboration with academic institutions or training consortia located off campus, and we sponsor [21 other Clinical and Translational Programs \(non-ACGME accredited\)](#).

### Q. Where on the NIH campus does clinical training take place?

Clinical training takes place at the [NIH Clinical Center](#), a 234-bed state-of-the-art research hospital. It is internationally recognized as the premier hospital dedicated to translational research and clinical care. With over 90,000 ambulatory visits and 6,000 admissions annually, the NIH Clinical Center brings hope to patients in need from around the globe as NIH investigators advance medical science through the discovery of tomorrow's cures. By its unique architectural design and state of the art technologies, the NIH Clinical Center is a national resource that makes it possible to rapidly translate scientific observations and laboratory discoveries into new clinical approaches for diagnosing, treating, and preventing disease.

### Q. How does one go about applying to these programs?

Many of the programs accept applications through the Association of American Medical Colleges ([AAMC](#)) Electronic Residency Application Service ([ERAS](#)), but not all programs participate in ERAS. It is best to check the application process listed for each [GME program](#) on our website.

### Q. Do these programs accept applicants through the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP)?

Currently, 6 of our 18 ACGME-accredited programs accept applicants through the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP). Please be sure to check the specific acceptance process listed for each [GME program](#).

### Q. Does the NIH support visas for applicants who are not United States (US) citizens?

If you presently hold a J-1 visa sponsored by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), you will be restricted to the accredited length of the training program. Many of the NIH ACGME-accredited Programs have additional years for research training that the visa may not support. As a result, all applicants holding a J-1 or other visa should contact the individual training program of interest directly for specific information about required credentials. More visa-related information is available at the [Division of International Services](#) (DIS) website, but prospective fellows should routinely address questions first to their respective program director or coordinator who will then liaise with DIS on their behalf.

### Q. How do I learn more about the terms and conditions of appointment, including salary and benefits, in an NIH-sponsored training program?

At the time of your visit to the program, each program will have information that describes the terms, benefits and conditions of appointment, including financial support; vacations; parental, sick, and other leaves of absence; professional liability, hospitalization, health, disability and other insurance; and call rooms, meals, laundry services, or their equivalents.

**Q. Will I be required to have a medical license if I train at NIH?**

The NIH Credentialing Office requires all residents/clinical fellows in NIH ACGME-accredited Programs to have their medical license within 1 year of starting their training program. As a Federal Institution, the NIH accepts medical licenses issued by any one of the fifty States, the District of Columbia, or a possession of the United States.

**Q. I've heard that NIH has a Loan Repayment Program. Is that correct?**

Yes. As a resident/clinical fellow enrolled in an ACGME-accredited training program at NIH, you can apply to receive [loan repayment](#) for up to \$17,000 per year of your qualified educational debt or you may qualify for the "Competitive Loan Repayment Program" which could repay as much as \$35,000 per year. Prospective applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for loan repayment are strongly encouraged to submit their electronic application upon acceptance into an NIH-sponsored, ACGME-accredited training program.

**Q. Is there a daycare on Campus?**

There are several [child-care facilities](#) on campus.

**Q. Will relocation expenses be paid?**

The NIH ACGME-accredited Programs do pay relocation expenses as a benefit of appointment up to pre-specified limits. More detailed information about reimbursement for relocation expenses can be obtained from the specific program.

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