

NIH Graduate Medical Education: ACGME Programs Frequently Asked Questions



Q. What GME programs do the NIH sponsor?

The NIH Intramural Research Program includes 24 [GME programs](#) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), several ACGME-accredited collaborative training programs sponsored by outside academic institutions, [dental training programs](#), and nearly thirty nonaccredited GME fellowships.

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

Residency and sub-specialty fellowship training programs are based at the [NIH Clinical Center](#), located on a 317- acre campus in Bethesda, Maryland. The NIH CC is the primary Sponsoring Institute (SI) and research hospital for Graduate Medical Education (GME), within the NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP). Seventeen NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) fund intramural research programs which are conducted on NIH campuses. Multiple NIH ICs utilize the NIH CC's clinical and research facilities, and each contribute funds yearly to the CC from their allocated budgets. In addition to operating costs for running the NIH CC, the ICs provide significant support to graduate medical education through their funding of trainee positions, program directors, program administration staff and expenses, and clinical and research resources for trainees

Q. How does one apply to these programs?

Many of the programs accept applications through the Association of American Medical Colleges ([AAMC](#)) Electronic Residency Application Service ([ERAS](#)), but other programs use a GME application site that is administered by [NIH Graduate Medical Education Residency and Subspecialty Training Application](#) or other external application sites. 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)?

Most of our ACGME-accredited programs accept applicants through the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) but not all of them use the Match. Please be sure to check the specific acceptance process listed for each [GME program](#).

Q. What is the hiring process for graduate medical education trainees?

Graduate medical education trainees, whether a resident or fellow, are called “clinical fellows”. Clinical fellows are hired as Title 42 federal government employees in most cases and as such, are eligible for many of the benefits associated with their appointment. There are several NIH lab-based fellowships that accept non-physicians; in this case, the fellow would not be hired as a Title 42 employee.

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

In general, NIH can support different types of visas for graduate medical education both for accredited and nonaccredited programs. Some trainees are sponsored by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) J-1 visa program if there are sufficient years available. 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 consult with DIS on their behalf.

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

Most Clinical Fellows are required to have a full unrestricted medical license at the time of their initial appointment. Residents in NIH ACGME- accredited residency programs must obtain a full and unrestricted 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 territory of the United States.

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

Residents and clinical fellows enrolled in a NIH ACGME-accredited training program for a minimum of three years, are eligible for the non-competitive [Loan Repayment](#) program for qualified educational debt. ACGME fellows may choose to apply for the competitive Loan Repayment Program which could repay a higher amount per year depending on level of indebtedness. 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 program.

For additional information please visit the Loan Repayment Programs website (www.lrp.nih.gov) or feel free to call them at 1-866-849-8047 or send them an e-mail to lrp@nih.gov.

Q. Is there a daycare on Campus?

There are several [child-care facilities](#) on campus. However, there may be a wait list that you have to join. [Click here to learn more about Child and Family Programs available for NIH Title 42 Employees.](#)

Q. Will relocation expenses be paid?

Payment of relocation expenses as a benefit of appointment in a training program is generally not offered so questions should be directed to the specific program.