

# 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 20 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited Residency or Sub-specialty Training Programs through the [NIH Clinical Center](#), located on our 317-acre campus in [Bethesda, Maryland](#). We also have 7 other ACGME-accredited training programs administered in collaboration with academic institutions or training consortia outside the NIH, and we sponsor [other Clinical and Translational Fellowship Training 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 200-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 approximately 5,000 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 other programs use a GME application site that is administered by NIH (link here). 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 but not all of our 20 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 could be restricted to the accredited length of the training program. Many of the NIH ACGME-accredited Programs have additional years for research training that may require additional J1 visas for these non-accredited years. 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 requirements. 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. 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. Clinical fellows are hired as Title 42 federal government employees and are eligible for many of the benefits associated with their appointment as such.

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

The NIH Credentialing Office requires all residents in NIH ACGME-accredited residency programs have a full and unrestricted medical license within 1 year of starting their training program. Clinical fellows are required to have a full unrestricted medical license to be credentialed at the Clinical Center; 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 \$20,000 per year of your qualified educational debt or you may qualify for the "Competitive Loan Repayment Program" which could repay as much as \$50,000 per year depending on amount 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 training program.

For additional information please visit the Loan Repayment Programs website ([www.lrp.nih.gov](http://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](mailto: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.

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

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

This page last reviewed  
on 10/24/2022