

NIH Graduate Medical Education: Frequently Asked Questions



FAQs for Potential Applicants

Q. What GME programs do the NIH sponsor?

The NIH Clinical Center sponsors 23 [GME programs](#) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Residency and sub-specialty Fellowship training programs are situated at the [NIH Clinical Center](#), located on a 317-acre campus in [Bethesda, Maryland](#). We also have ACGME-accredited training programs administered in collaboration with outside academic institutions, [Dental Programs \(ADA and Non-ADA\)](#), and numerous nonaccredited fellowships.

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 80,000 ambulatory visits and approximately 27,000 inpatient days 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 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](#). 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 23 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. 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.

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

In general, NIH can support visas for graduate medical education both for accredited and nonaccredited programs. Some trainees can be sponsored by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) J-1 visa program as long as 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. How do I learn more about the terms and conditions of appointment, including salary and benefits, in an NIH-sponsored training program?

Each program will provide up-to-date information on the clinical fellow agreement 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 clinical fellows 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?

For residents/clinical fellows enrolled in an ACGME-accredited training program at NIH, there is a non-competitive [Loan Repayment](#) program for qualified educational debt or you 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 or nonaccredited training 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 not always offered and questions should be directed to the specific program.

This page last
reviewed on
12/18/2023