

International Medical School Students and Graduates (IMGs) in the Match: What You Need to Know

Under the terms of the Match Participation Agreement, to participate in the Match, IMGs MUST have passed all examinations required to obtain certification from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG®). To begin training in a residency program, IMGs must have completed all ECFMG certification requirements and obtained ECFMG Certification. According to the [ECFMG website](#), certification includes:

- passing scores on Step 1, Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK), and Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS)* of the United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE®), and
- primary source verification of the IMG's final medical school diploma and transcript.

***IMPORTANT NOTE FOR 2021 MATCH:** In response to the suspension of the USMLE Step 2 CS exam by the USMLE program, ECFMG|FAIMER has identified pathways that will allow qualified IMGs to meet the clinical skills requirement for ECFMG Certification. For IMGs who participate in the 2021 Match, satisfy all requirements for a pathway, and have passing performances on USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK that are valid for ECFMG Certification, ECFMG will verify to the NRMP that they have met the examination requirements for ECFMG Certification. Please review the [Requirements for ECFMG Clinical Skills Pathways for the 2021 Match](#) for detailed information.

IMGs who have not met the examination requirements for ECFMG Certification by the Rank Order List Deadline CANNOT participate in the Match.

Why must ECFMG verify that I can participate in the Match?

Only programs that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) participate in the Main Residency Match, and ACGME requires IMGs who enter ACGME- accredited programs to be ECFMG-certified or to have a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in a United States licensing jurisdiction.

How does the NRMP learn if I have met the ECFMG examination requirements?

After the Match opens in September, the NRMP conducts weekly data exchanges with the ECFMG. NRMP provides to ECFMG a list of IMGs who have registered for the Match, and the ECFMG confirms whether the IMG has met the examination requirements. That weekly data exchange continues until the Rank Order List Deadline for the Match.

What happens if the ECFMG does not verify that I have met the examination requirements?

All examinations must be passed and the results available by the NRMP Rank Order List Deadline. After the Rank Order List Deadline, the NRMP will withdraw all IMGs who cannot be verified and provide them an opportunity to contact ECFMG directly about their status. IMGs not receiving final verification will be withdrawn from the Match, and their rank order lists will not be used when the matching algorithm is processed.

REMINDERS...

- **Apply early!** Review the ECFMG website and make sure you complete the examination requirements in advance of the Rank Order List Deadline.
- **Be patient!** Once you have registered for the Match it may take some time for the ECFMG to verify that you have met the examination requirements. Remember that there are weekly data exchanges between the NRMP and ECFMG, and NRMP will update your account to "Verified" upon notice by ECFMG that you have met all the examination requirements.

Visit the ECFMG website for information about

[ERAS Support Services at ECFMG Exchange](#)

[Visitor Sponsorship \(J-1\) Program](#)