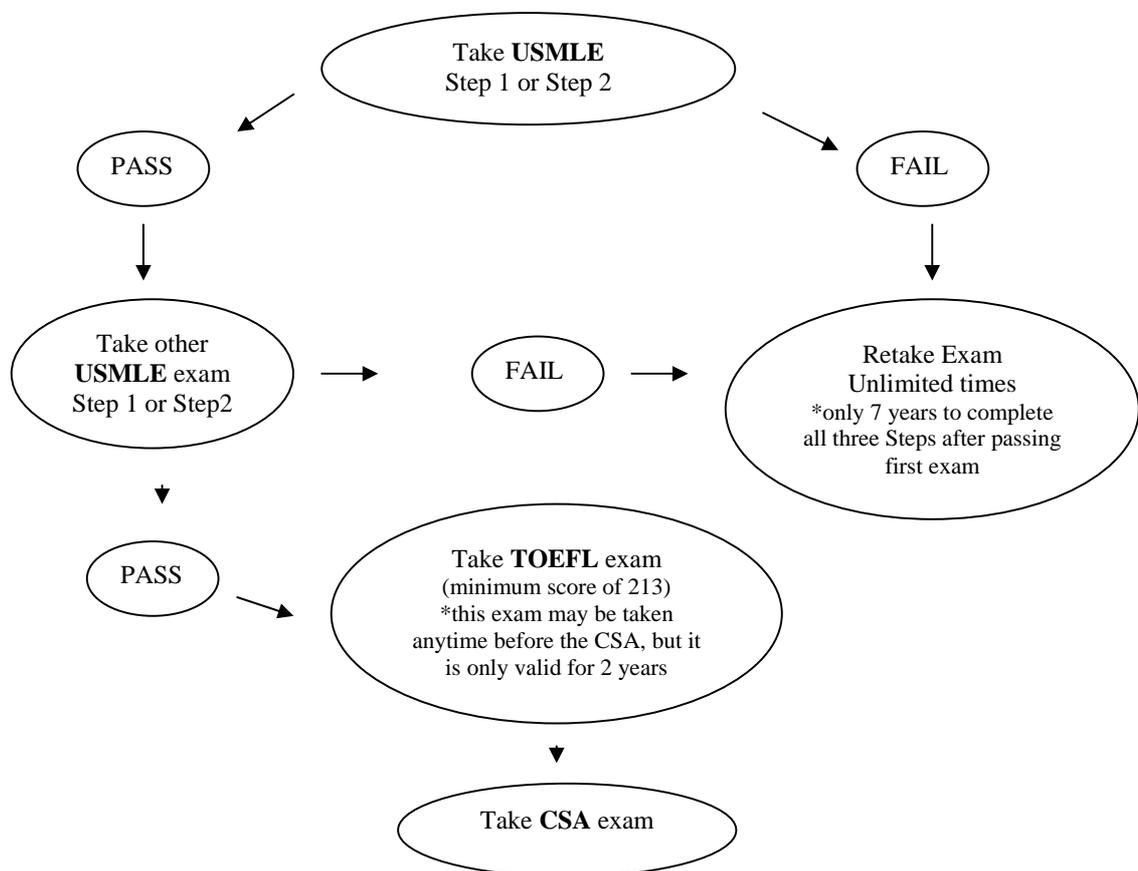


# ECFMG Certification

and  
Steps to a Residency/Specialization in the US  
for International Medical Graduates

**International Medical Graduates (IMG)** interested in studying their Specialization, Subspecialization, or Residency in the US must take a series of exams, including the TOEFL\*, USMLE\*\*, and CSA\*\*\*, in order to gain **Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)** certification. ECFMG certification approves medical students to enter into a U.S. residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

## Requirements for ECFMG certification:



\***TOEFL**-Test of English as a Foreign Language

\*\***USMLE**- United States Medical Licensing Examination

\*\*\***CSA**- Clinical Skills Assessment

## USMLE Information

The USMLE exams, Step 1 and Step 2, are administered through Prometric Testing Centers. In Mexico, the exams are offered the second Tuesday of every month at:

Institute of International  
Education  
Berlín 18,  
Colonia Juárez  
México, D.F. 06600  
tel: (5) 080-2801, -02  
fax: (5) 535-5597  
[ie\\_latin@iee.com.mx](mailto:ie_latin@iee.com.mx)

Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin  
de Monterrey ABP  
Porfirio Diaz 949 sur  
Monterrey, Nuevo Leon  
México  
tel: 52-8343-3907  
fax: 52-8345-1988  
[guillerminapadilla@hotmail.com](mailto:guillerminapadilla@hotmail.com)

Instituto Cultural Mexicano-  
Norteamericano de Jalisco  
Enrique Diaz de Leon #300  
Guadalajara, Jalisco  
México  
tel: 52-3825-5666  
fax: 52-3826-1671  
[cultural@acnet.net](mailto:cultural@acnet.net)

### **Registration Requirements:**

You must be a medical student officially enrolled\* or a graduate\*\* of a foreign medical program listed by the World Health Organization in *World Directory of Medical Schools* (available at IIE Reference).

\*If you have not yet graduated, you must provide documentation certified by your Medical School Dean, Vice Dean, or Registrar that you are currently enrolled and will be at the time of the exam.

\*\*If you have graduated already, you must provide your medical diploma or documentation of completion of educational requirements to practice medicine in the country in which you received your medical education.

### **Exam Cost:**

The cost of each exam is \$615 USD\*, plus a \$100 USD\* International charge (for Mexico). The \$100 dollars International charge is sent along with the payment for each of the Steps. You may register for both exams at the same time, making the full payment of \$1430 USD, though you may not take the exams on the same day.

\*These prices are accurate for 2001.

For current prices, consult ECFMG website: [www.ecfmg.org](http://www.ecfmg.org).

### **Registration Process:**

1. Consult the ECFMG website at [www.ecfmg.org](http://www.ecfmg.org) for appropriate application materials.
2. Submit application, all necessary documents and full payment to ECFMG to the address indicated on the application materials at least two months in advance of eligibility period. Include your email address on the application material, if applicable.
3. ECFMG will notify you, via mail or email, of your eligibility for the exam and information about scheduling and taking the exam.
4. The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) will then mail you a Scheduling Permit, though not more than six months before the eligibility period you indicated in your application. They will also send you a USMLE CD or booklet to sample the exam software and questions similar to the exam. This information is also available on the ECFMG website.
5. The Scheduling Permit includes your name, mailing address, name of exam, eligibility period, testing region, your personal Scheduling Number

and your Candidate Identification Number (CIN). It also includes the information to contact Prometric to schedule your exam date. Test center staff do not have access to this number.

6. If you are unable to keep your testing appointment on the scheduled date or at the scheduled location, you may change your date or center by contacting Prometric. To avoid a rescheduling fee, your request must be made by noon (Eastern Time) at least five business days before your appointment.

## **Description of Exams**

### **Step 1**

An eight hour test, that includes questions in anatomy, behavioral sciences, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology, and physiology, as well as interdisciplinary topics, such as nutrition, genetics, and aging.

### **Step 2**

A nine hour test, that includes questions in internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, preventive medicine, psychiatry, surgery, and other areas relevant to provision of care under supervision. The majority of the test questions describe clinical situations and require that you provide diagnosis, a prognosis, an indication of underlying mechanisms of disease, or the next step in medical care, including preventive measures.

Both exams allow for a 45 minute break during the exam period.

## **Other Important Information:**

1. IMG's are permitted to take the USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 an unlimited number of times until they pass each exam. You may not retake an exam once you have passed it to improve your score. You may retake an exam no less than 60 days after your most recent examination date, and no more than three times within a 12 month period.
2. A passing grade for each exam is 176 points out of 300.
3. If you will be taking USMLE Step 3 to obtain State Licensure to practice medicine in the US, you must pass the other two exams within 7 years from the day you pass your first exam. Step 3 can be taken only after a Residency Program.

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## **TOEFL Information**

The TOEFL exam is administered through Prometric Testing Centers. In Mexico City, the exam is offered Monday through Friday and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month at:

Institute of International Education  
Berlín 18,  
Colonia Juárez  
México, D.F. 06600  
tel: 5080-2801;2802 5703-0167  
fax: (5) 535-5597  
[ie\\_latin@iee.com.mx](mailto:ie_latin@iee.com.mx)

**Exam Cost:** \$130 USD

**Registration Process:**

Consult TOEFL website ([www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)), TOEFL informational sheet or TOEFL Bulletin (available at IIE) for registration and exam information.

**Other Important Information:**

1. After the TOEFL exam, results must be sent to ECFMG (institution code # **9108**) directly from ETS. You may request this on the day of your TOEFL exam.
2. Send a TOEFL Acceptance Request Form (Form 163) and payment of \$40 for acceptance of your TOEFL score to ECFMG.

Payments for acceptance of performance on TOEFL should be mailed to:

via courier delivery service should be directed to:

ECFMG  
3624 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19014-2685  
USA

via mail should be directed to:

ECFMG  
PO Box 820992  
Philadelphia, PA 19182-0992  
USA

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**CSA Information**

The CSA exam is administered only at: ECFMG Clinical Skills Assessment Center  
3624 Market Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA  
19104-2685

**Registration Requirements:**

1. You must be a medical student officially enrolled\* or a graduate\*\* of a foreign medical program listed by the World Health Organization in *World Directory of Medical Schools* (available at IIE Reference).

\*If you have not yet graduated, you must provide documentation certified by your Medical School Dean, Vice Dean, or Registrar that you are currently enrolled and will be at the time of the exam.

\*\*If you have graduated already, you must provide your medical diploma or documentation of completion of educational requirements to practice medicine in the country in which you received your medical education.

2. You must have passed USMLE Step 1, with a score of 176 out of 300, and

the TOEFL exam with a score of 213.

**Exam Cost:**

The fee for the exam is \$1,200 USD\*. This fee does not include travel and accommodation costs.

\*These prices are accurate for 2001.

For current prices, consult ECFMG website: [www.ecfm.org](http://www.ecfm.org).

**Registration Process:**

1. Consult the ECFMG website at [www.ecfm.org](http://www.ecfm.org) for the official application form (Form 706). Application instructions are included with the application form. Include full payment and necessary documents with application.
2. ECFMG will notify you of your registration and scheduling information.
3. You must schedule your CSA within four months of the date indicated on your notification of registration and must take the exam within one year of the date indicated. **If you do not meet these deadlines you will lose your payment and you will need to reapply and repay. You may not reschedule your CSA.**
4. ECFMG will then send your admission permit, that you will need to present at the Clinical Skills Assessment Center on your exam date.

**Exam Description:**

The CSA is an eight hour exam consisting of eleven encounters with Standardized Patients, ten of which will be scored. The CSA includes test cases in Internal Medicine, Surgery, OB/GYN, Pediatric, Psychiatry, Family Medicine. The exam assesses whether you can obtain a relevant medical history, perform a focused physical exam and compose a written record of the patient encounter.

**Other Important Information:**

1. The Clinical Skills Assessment Center does not provide accommodations, it is only a test center. You are responsible for making travel and accommodation arrangements.
2. Once you have scheduled your exam date, you may not reschedule.

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**Residency Program**

Once you have completed ECFMG certification you can begin the process of looking for a Residency Program. You may consult the book *Getting Into A Residency* (available at IIE) for information about the choosing a specialty, finding a residency and the process to obtaining a residency. Below is a list of Residency Matching Programs to aid in the search.

<b><u>Electronic Residency Application Service:</u></b>
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<b><u>Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program:</u></b>
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<p>ECFMG/ERAS Program  P.O. Box 13467  Philadelphia, PA 19101-3467 U.S.A.  Tel: 215.386.5900  Fax: 215.222.5641  <a href="http://www.ecfm.org/erasinfo.htm">www.ecfm.org/erasinfo.htm</a></p>	<p>ECFMG/Exchange Visitor  Sponsorship Program  P.O. Box 41673 U.S.A.  Tel: 215.823.2121  Fax: 215.386.9766</p>
<p><b><u>National Resident Matching Program:</u></b>  Medical School of the U.S. and Canada  <a href="http://www.aamc.org/meded/medschls/start.htm">www.aamc.org/meded/medschls/start.htm</a></p>	<p><b><u>National Resident Matching Program:</u></b>  Hospitals and Programs Participating in the  Matching Program  <a href="http://www.aamc.org/nrmp">http://www.aamc.org/nrmp</a></p>

**USEFUL INTERNET ADRESSES**

[www.ecfm.org](http://www.ecfm.org)  
[cophlya@yahoo.com](mailto:cophlya@yahoo.com)

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates  
Consortium of Physicians from Latin America