

Work opportunity for International Medical Graduates

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Abstract

Pursuing residency beyond a certain period would be hard for International medical graduates due to inevitable financial restraints. Hence, International Medical Graduates seek work opportunities, which could help them earn money and gain clinical experience at the same time. I have searched through various websites in different search engines for a work opportunity for myself as an International Medical Graduate (IMG). This article is a consolidation of contents from more than ten websites. The conclusion is that there are health care job opportunities for ECFMG-certified (the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates -certified) international medical graduates and it would be easier for non-visa-requiring candidates. An entry-level job opportunity may lead to another clinical job opportunity during which the candidate could build on strong clinical background in the United States of America and be financially sufficient. Persistence is the key to success.

Keywords: IMGs OR International Medical graduates/Postdoc Research fellow /entry-level job opportunity/state medical board IMG programs/IMGs AND research/ IMG AND job

Residency application is a stressful journey. Above average USMLE scores, ample clinical experience in the United States, and a captivating resume within a specific time –all are essential to get matched. International medical graduates with visa or without Green card/citizenship face challenging situations accordingly. Many factors become determinants of a successful residency journey for International Medical Graduates. For me, the year of graduation has been a crucial factor.

Being an international medical graduate with an older year of graduation had put me in a great deal of financial burden while applying through different residency match seasons

Most International Medical Graduates go into research. Sometimes, the number of publications becomes a deciding factor in the number of residency interview invites; hence the increased chances of getting matched. Many institutions allow ECFMG-certified International Medical Graduates to be post-doc fellows. Research experiences and prior publications certainly increase the chance of getting accepted as post doc fellows. Many research internship opportunities are also available. Be a published author program by California Institute of behavioral Neurosciences & Psychology, The Introduction to the Principles and Practice of Clinical Research certificate course by National Institutes of Health (NIH), -are few among the research courses available to help International medical graduates gain research experience. Certain universities offer degrees in research; e.g.: Master of Science in Health Sciences (MSHS) in clinical and translational research program by the George Washington university. Certainly, professional courses require one to two years of education and fees –but it matters according to your goals. One can attain an online degree while working in research or other health care fields which will certainly boost your clinical acumen.

A Master of public health (MPH) degree can give you a career in public health in addition to training in research, connections with eminent faculty, increase the probability to get a few first author publications.

STATE MEDICAL BOARD ¹	PROGRAMS
Arkansas	Graduate registered physician act
Washington	International Medical Graduates Clinical Experience License ^{2,7}
Missouri	Assistant physician ¹⁰
Tennessee	Graduate physician
Illinois	IMG temporary authorization
New York	Limited permit physician ³
Florida	House physician ⁴
Minnesota	International Medical Graduate Assistance Program ⁵

Table 2: Clinical programs for unmatched doctors in various states.⁴

I worked as a clinical assistant which provided me with clinical experience and financial support at the same time. I would like to discuss some of the job opportunities available hoping it would be a helping hand to some of the International Medical Graduates.

Persistence is the key. There are renowned hospitals and healthcare agencies in the United States of America offering job opportunities for ECFMG-certified International Medical Graduate candidates. Research intern /research fellow (unpaid) position at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County Illinois, pre-residency fellowship opportunities available in various institutions including the New Mexico university, University of Utah⁹, University of Wisconsin Madison, are few among the golden opportunities to gain valuable clinical experience in United States. The table below shows some other job opportunities for International Medical Graduates:

Job Opportunity	Pay per annum	Remarks
ENTRY LEVEL		
Clinical research associate	40 k avg	various research courses by Society of Clinical Research Associates(SOCRA), Association of clinical research professionals (ACRP) - websites are helpful
Infection disease control/prevention specialist	70 k avg	Preferred Infection Control Certification
Health educator	50k avg	Courses available e.g.: online course at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU)-Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education.
Medical transcriptionist	35k avg	Certification courses available
Clinical Assistant	30k avg	
Patient advocate	40k avg	No national standards or certifications for patient advocates yet
Clinical research Fellow	varies	Post Doctorate Research Fellowship
JOBS REQUIRING CERTIFICATE COURSES		
EMT, paramedic	40K	EMT course, National Registry exam
Medical assistant	30K	Registered Medical Assistant, Certified Medical Assistant certificates
Phlebotomist	30K	draw blood for tests, transfusions, research, or blood donations.
Pharmacy technician	33k avg	
Health information technicians	40k avg	collect, analyze, and follow-up treatment information.
Certified Nursing Assistant	33K	
Surgical technologist	47 K	
JOBS REQUIRING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION		
Epidemiologist	90K	MPH
Medical Record and Health information technician	42 K	
Physician Assistant	115 K	International Medical graduate to Physician assistant program available
Radiation therapist	86 K	
Registered Nurse	77K	Foreign MD to Registered Nurse /Nursing practitioner programs available
Clinical document specialist	80K	-Certified clinical document specialist (CCDS), Certified clinical document specialist -Outpatient (CCDS-O) certificates.
Specialist in poison information (SPI)	76K	does not require a license or residency. Doctors are paid while training -provides requisites for the certification exam.
Pathology Assistant	80k	graduate from the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) accredited program and pass the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP certification exam). Some hospitals take ECFMG certified International Medical Graduates for this post.

Highlights of the Graduate registered physician act of Arkansas state medical board includes the applicant's year of graduation to be within past two years and applicant to be a resident of the state or US national. Similar opportunities are also available in Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, and Utah. Virginia is considering one. Limited permits in New York allows a qualifying international medical graduate to practice under a New York registered physician at a general hospital, nursing home, State-operated psychiatric, developmental or alcohol treatment center, or nonprofit institution for the treatment of the chronically ill. International Medical graduate temporary authorization by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional regulation (IDFPR) is valid during the Gubernational COVID-19 Disaster Proclamations.

Professional courses including Physician Assistant, Nursing Practitioner, etc. may be an option for those who look into other career choices. One must understand that even if you choose a different health career path for the time being, if you are persistent in pursuing residency, then nothing is impossible. Again, persistence is the key to success!!!

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