

# Bridging the Healthcare Gap: The Critical Importance of International Medical Graduates in the US

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Journal For International Medical Graduates

## Abstract:

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) contribute to addressing the physician shortage gap, especially in underserved areas. They also bring cultural competence and understanding to the healthcare system, improve patient satisfaction and outcomes, and advance medical knowledge through their diverse experiences and knowledge. Additionally, IMGs support the United States (US) economy through their contributions via taxes, spending, and revenue generation for healthcare institutions. Overall, IMGs play a vital role in enhancing the US healthcare system and are essential in areas where there is a lack of physicians.

## Keywords:

International Medical Graduates, physician shortage, diversity, cultural competence, patient satisfaction, patient outcomes, medical research

## Introduction

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) are doctors who have been trained in countries other than the United States (US). IMGs are playing an essential role within the US healthcare system; they contribute to diversity, research, innovation, and filling physician shortages. This paper explains why IMGs are important to the functioning of the US healthcare system.

## IMGs Fill the Physician Shortage Gap in the US.

The shortage of physicians in the United States has been a growing concern in recent years, and projections suggest that the problem will only worsen. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, the US could see a shortage of up to 139,000 physicians by 2033, with shortages in primary care and specialties [1].

creating opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing that are crucial for advancing medical research. Their participation in ongoing research projects at their institutions within the US allows for diverse perspectives and approaches, ultimately leading to new discoveries and advancements in healthcare.

## Conclusion

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) are playing a vital role in enhancing the US healthcare system. They fill the physician shortage gap, bringing culture and diversity to the healthcare workforce, and contributing to medical research and innovation. By accounting for a significant portion of licensed doctors in the US, IMGs are essential in areas where there is a lack of physicians.

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IMGs play a critical role in addressing this shortage by providing a pool of qualified physicians to fill vacant positions. According to the American Medical Association, IMGs account for 25% of licensed doctors in the US [2]. Moreover, IMGs may work in areas where there is a lack of physicians, such as in rural or underserved areas. This allows them to meet the needs of underserved communities and provide care to those who might not otherwise have access to medical services.

### IMGs Bring Diversity to the Healthcare Workforce

Having a diverse healthcare workforce is crucial in meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse patient population [3, 4]. Patients from diverse backgrounds may have unique health beliefs, practices, and values that need to be understood and respected by healthcare providers. IMGs can bring cultural competence and understanding to the healthcare system, improving patient satisfaction and outcomes.

In addition, IMGs may also have experience working with patient populations with health conditions and backgrounds that are not commonly seen in the US, such as tropical diseases or certain types of cancers. Their expertise in these areas can benefit patients and advance medical knowledge.

Moreover, the sharing of knowledge and practices between IMGs and US-trained physicians can lead to improved patient care and outcomes. For example, an IMG may have experience with a particular treatment or procedure that is not commonly used in the US but has shown success in their home country. By sharing this knowledge with their colleagues, they can improve patient care and outcomes [5].

### IMGs Contribute to Medical Research and Innovation

IMGs bring their unique experiences and knowledge of medical practices and techniques from their home countries, making them valuable contributors to the field of medical research. They often have experience working with patient populations with health conditions and backgrounds that are not commonly seen in the US, offering fresh insights into research questions and innovative treatments [6].

Moreover, IMGs have established connections with physicians and organizations in other countries,

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