



## American Academy of Family Physicians

### Items to Consider For International Medical Graduates (IMGs) Who Wish to Practice Medicine in the United States

An international physician should consider where he or she would like to practice medicine because each state has different licensing requirements for physicians. The individual state medical board can provide information about the specific requirements a physician needs to meet in order to practice medicine in that particular state. States may or may not recognize an IMG's training or may require applicants to have anywhere from one to three years of postgraduate training in the U.S. The state medical board member contact information can be obtained by contacting the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) at (817) 868-4000 or visiting their web site at [www.fsmb.org](http://www.fsmb.org)

Board certification is not required to practice medicine, but most employers will ask for their physicians to be board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM). To obtain more information on the board certifying exam, eligibility requirements, and reciprocity agreements contact the ABFM at:

American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM)  
2228 Young Drive  
Lexington, KY 40505-4294  
Telephone: (859) 269-5626/ (888) 995-5700  
Fax: (859) 335-7516 or (859) 335-7516  
E-mail: [help@theabfm.org](mailto:help@theabfm.org)  
Web: [www.theabfm.org](http://www.theabfm.org) and [www.theabfm.org/cert/cert.aspx](http://www.theabfm.org/cert/cert.aspx)

Certain state boards, residency programs, and the ABFP may require graduates of foreign medical schools to obtain the Standard ECFMG certificate. Further information regarding examination and certification may be obtained through contacting the ECFMG at [www.ecfmg.org/cert/index.html](http://www.ecfmg.org/cert/index.html) :

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)  
3624 Market Street, 4th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685  
Telephone: (215) 386-5900  
Fax: (215) 386-9196  
Web: [www.ecfmg.org](http://www.ecfmg.org)

*This information provided courtesy of:  
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