



IntealthTM

Advancing the Global Health Workforce

ECFMG FAIMER

Challenges and Advantages Related to International Medical Graduates

International Medical Graduates

DEFINITION: An international medical graduate (IMG) is *any* physician who received his/her basic medical degree from a medical school outside of the United States or Canada, **regardless of country of citizenship**

This includes:

- **Any U.S. citizen** who received a medical degree from a school outside of the United States or Canada
- **Foreign nationals** who received a medical degree outside of the United States or Canada and require a visa to participate in U.S. GME

IMGs in U.S. Health Care

International medical graduates are:

- **21%** of active residents in specialty training programs
- **32%** of active residents in subspecialty programs
- Approximately **25%** of the U.S. physician workforce

Total IMGs practicing in the United States:
263,029

Source: ACGME, AMA

Perceived Challenges



Institutional Support: PDs and coordinators may need time to dedicate too much time to credential verification, international transcripts, and other IMG requirements.



Qualifications: IMGs may not be as qualified as their U.S. medical graduate counterparts.



Visa Complexity: Immigration barriers are prohibitive and too complex., but Intealth offers support to navigate these challenges.

Advantages



Opportunity to Add Diversity to Programs: IMGs bring global health knowledge and cultural perspectives, enriching training environments and aligning with the needs of diverse patient populations.



Filling Gaps with Talented Physicians: IMGs are well-educated and often fully trained physicians in their home countries and are key in supporting specialties that may be under-Matched.



Resilience and Gratitude: They've worked very hard to train in the U.S. and are often deeply committed and grateful.

Why IMGs?

The diversity of IMGs contributes to U.S. GME because they may:

- Possess an understanding of varied cultural and religious backgrounds, which is particularly impactful in discussions around palliative care
- Share language, ethnic, or racial concordance with diverse patient populations
- Have experience in global disease and treatment modalities
- Hold unique perspectives and motivators which adds depth to training teams
- Broaden the cultural competencies of their U.S. medical graduate peers