

University of Colorado School of Medicine

Graduate Medical Education

Policy: International Residency Rotations		
Original Approval: January 18, 2012	Effective date: January 18, 2012	Revision Date: 02/09/2018 editorial 11/06/2019 editorial 2/21/2024 1/10/2025 editorial

In this document, “resident” refers to both specialty residents and subspecialty fellows.

Introduction:

The University of Colorado School of Medicine (CUSOM) Graduate Medical Education (GME) is committed to providing residents with an educational program that offers them a personal program of learning and broad education in the science and art of medicine. Recognizing that some educational experiences are more valuable in a community of an international location, this policy is adopted concerning those experiences. As there must be full consideration of the quality of the rotation, including goals, objectives and faculty/attending supervision; the educational necessity of the rotation; the accreditation implications; and the financial implications of the rotation, the following procedures must be followed.

Application and Definitions:

This policy and procedure applies to all GMEC approved Residency and Fellowship Training Programs sponsored by the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Programs can have their own policies and procedures in addition to this, but it must meet these minimum requirements.

International Residency Rotation educational experiences are defined as those educational experiences:

- Not specifically required by ACGME program requirements; and
- Occurring outside the United States.

Program Director must confirm the following:

1. The Resident has verbal approval to go on elective and has been instructed to start the on-line registration process.
2. The Resident must be in good standing at the time of the request.
3. The Resident must not be in the first year nor final 2 months of training.
 - a. Other restrictions may apply to Residents in their final months of training depending on board certification requirements.
4. The Resident must be on track to complete all program/RRC requirements (i.e. case logs, educational time, etc) without extending the length of the residency due to the international elective.
5. All international rotation application requirements set by the RRC (e.g. Surgery RRC) must be met.
6. The international rotation, including travel time, will not exceed two months per rotation.

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7. The Resident will take no more than 2 international rotations during the entire training program.
8. The international rotation must be in compliance with all program requirements, including Common Program Requirements, and do not conflict with applicable Board eligibility requirements.
9. Granting of an international rotation will not result in a failure to meet contractual resident staffing agreements with participating hospitals.
10. Receipt of an evaluation from the faculty/attending Site Director who supervised the resident during the international rotation.
11. The Resident completes all required evaluations.
12. A Program Letter of Agreement must be fully executed in advance of the international rotation start date.
13. Proof of funding for the Resident's stipend and benefits must be provided in advance of the international rotation start date. Contact GME Director of Finance and Administration to discuss proof of funding for international rotations.
14. An active medical license in the country of the international rotation is required for all clinical international rotations. A copy of the license must be uploaded to the [Office of Global Education GME application](#).
 - a. Medical license requirements may be waived by the international training site provided the site agrees to indemnify the Residents. The site must provide this documentation in writing. Documentation must be uploaded to the [Office of Global Education GME application](#).
15. Malpractice insurance is mandatory for all clinical international rotations. Proof of medical malpractice insurance must be uploaded to the [Office of Global Education GME application](#). Below are the options for malpractice insurance coverage:
 - a. The CU professional liability insurance does not cover claims outside the US. For International rotations, the Resident's department must request to include the training site in the Professional Risk Management international malpractice policy and cover the associated costs.
 - i. If the Resident does not submit proof of adequate Medical Malpractice Insurance coverage during the application process their rotation and travel plans must be canceled or delayed until proof is provided to the GME office.

Policy and Procedure:

The process for requesting an international rotation must begin at least 9 months prior to the rotation start date. Residents should be given program guidelines regarding international rotations as soon as possible in their training.

Requirements for requesting an international rotation can be found at [GME Program Coordinators SharePoint](#).

To start the approval process, the Resident must logon to the [Office of Global Education Study Abroad](#) site and complete the Request.

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Program Directors will receive electronic notification when an application has been submitted for their approval. After the Program Director approves the application, it is sent to the GME Associate Dean (or designee) for final approval.