

B-1 Medical Students

The B-1 Business Visitor category allows international medical students enrolled in a foreign medical school to enter the United States for the purpose of engaging in a clinical clerkship or elective rotation. A clinical clerkship or elective rotation is an unpaid program that affords practical experience and instruction in the various disciplines of medicine under the supervision and direction of faculty physicians at a medical school's hospital in the United States. The clerkship or rotation must be part of the student's foreign medical school degree requirements for their third or fourth year of study.

The visa is normally sought at a United States Consulate through its normal nonimmigrant visa application process. Students should provide supporting documentation in the form of a letter from the medical school hospital's program that describes the experience and instruction that will be received. The letter should also state the duration of the program. In addition, the student will need evidence that the clerkship or rotation is required as part of the foreign medical school's degree requirements. Finally, the student should be prepared to show how his or her expenses will be covered while he or she is in the United States.

Canadian and other visa waiver nationals can apply for the B-1 visa at pre-flight inspection or the port of entry. The evidentiary requirements are the same as above; however, the student should request an I-94 card that is endorsed with a B-1 stamp.

International medical students engaging in a clinical clerkship or elective rotation cannot partake in laboratory-based research, bench research. Such students are also prohibited from receiving remuneration from the hospital in any form, including stipends. The B-1 classification does not apply to foreign medical graduates or persons seeking training as part of a foreign physiotherapy, dental, nursing, or veterinary educational program.

For more information

For more information, please contact Lee Lane Smith LLP via e-mail at enquiry@leelanesmith.us or toll free at (800) 513-5699.