

International Medical School Students and Graduates (IMGs) in the Match: What You Need to Know

Under the terms of the Match Participation Agreement, to participate in the Match and SOAP, IMGs MUST meet the medical science examination requirements and the clinical and communication skills requirements for certification by ECFMG®, a division of Intealth™, and have their passing results and satisfactory completion of these requirements verified by the NRMP Rank Order List (ROL) Certification Deadline. IMGs must:

- have passing scores on Step 1 and Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) of the United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE®) to meet ECFMG’s medical science examination requirements, and
- have a valid, unexpired [ECFMG Pathway](#), or have a passing performance on the former Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) component of USMLE that is valid for ECFMG Certification, to meet ECFMG’s clinical and communication skills requirements.

IMGs who have not met the applicable medical science examination requirements and clinical and communication skills requirements for ECFMG Certification by the Rank Order List Certification Deadline CANNOT participate in the Match or SOAP.

Why must I meet the medical science examination requirements and clinical and communication skills requirements for ECFMG Certification to participate in the Match?

Only programs that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) participate in the Main Residency Match. Although IMGs are not required to be ECFMG Certified to participate in the Match, the ACGME does require IMGs to be ECFMG Certified, or to have a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in a United States licensing jurisdiction, to begin training in ACGME-accredited programs. Please note that to obtain ECFMG Certification, IMGs must meet requirements in addition to those listed above.

How does the NRMP learn if I have met the requirements?

After the Match opens in September, the NRMP conducts weekly data exchanges with ECFMG. NRMP provides to ECFMG a list of IMGs who have registered for the Match and ECFMG verifies whether each IMG has met the Match participation requirements. That weekly data exchange continues until the ROL Certification Deadline for the Match.

What happens if ECFMG does not verify that I have met the requirements?

All medical science examination requirements and clinical and communication skills requirements for ECFMG Certification must be met and the results must be verified by the ROL Certification Deadline. After the Deadline, the NRMP will withdraw all IMGs who cannot be verified and provide them an opportunity to contact ECFMG directly about their status. IMGs not receiving final verification will be withdrawn from the Match, their rank order lists will not be used when the matching algorithm is processed, and they will be unable to participate in the SOAP process.

REMINDERS...

- **Apply early!** Review the ECFMG website and make sure you complete the medical science examination requirements and clinical and communication skills requirements for ECFMG Certification in advance of the ROL Certification Deadline.
- **Be patient!** Once you have registered for the Match, it may take some time for ECFMG to verify that you have met the Match participation requirements. Remember that there are weekly data exchanges between the NRMP and ECFMG, and NRMP will update your Verification Status to “Verified” upon notice by ECFMG that you have met all the requirements.

Visit the ECFMG website for information about

- [ERAS Support Services at ECFMG](#)
- [ECFMG Certification](#)
- [Exchange Visitor Sponsorship \(J-1\) Program](#)