



Department of Radiology
Division of Education

Department of Radiology Policy on Alternate Pathway for International Medical Graduates

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Departmental Approval	Pamela M. Otto, MD; Department Chair
Education Division Approval	Carlos S. Restrepo, MD; Vice Chair of Education
Administrative Oversight	Education Division/Program Coordinators

Purpose/Scope:

To provide a comprehensive policy on the Dept. of Radiology Alternate Pathway program to interested applicants and current fellows. This policy is subject to change in accordance with updates to the American Board of Radiology's (ABR) regulations regarding its Alternate Pathway options.

Definitions:

International Medical Graduate (IMG): an individual trained in Diagnostic Radiology program outside of the United States, its territories, or Canada.

ABR Program Fees:

A [current fee schedule](#) may be found online at the ABR website; trainees are responsible for paying their own fees to the ABR.

ACGME Rule Changes:

The ACGME rule changes, implemented on July 1, 2016, apply only to criteria for entrance into an ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship, and not to the ABR Alternate Pathway Program. The Alternate Pathway may be completed with four years as a resident; as a fellow (in ACGME-accredited or non-accredited fellowships in applicable fields of radiology); as a faculty member; or as any combination of residency, fellowship, or faculty service in a single institution with an ACGME- or RCPSC (Canadian)-accredited diagnostic radiology residency program. Research may be credited for a maximum of 12 months if it is part of a pre-approved four-year plan.

Dept. of Radiology Participating Fellowships:

The programs listed below currently participate in the Alternate Pathway; all programs are 1 year (12 months) in length with a start date of July 1 of each year:

- Body Imaging and Intervention
- Body MR Imaging
- Breast Imaging and Intervention
- Cardiothoracic Imaging
- Emergency Radiology

- Musculoskeletal Radiology

Requirements for Applicants:

The ABR requires the following in order to be considered as a candidate for certification through the Alternate Pathway:

1. Satisfy the training requirements of a non-U.S., non-Canadian country.
2. Have documentation verifying your ability to practice radiology independently in your country of training or have received board certification in your country (if applicable).
3. Have had one year of clinical training.
4. If you have trained in **India**, you must have the following degrees to be eligible for the alternate pathway: M.B.B.S. + D.N.B. and/or M.D. If you have another set of degrees from India, a sponsoring department agreement (SDA) must have been received by the ABR by 12/31/2011 for you to be eligible for this pathway. Holders of other degrees from India will not be eligible for ABR certification via the alternate pathway.

Texas Medical Board (TMB) Requirements for Licensure:

Applicants who have been accepted into the Alternate pathway must be eligible to apply for either a Texas Full Medical License or Physician-in-Training (PIT) permit. In order to be eligible for a Full Medical License in the state of Texas, applicants must meet the criteria as outlined on the [TMB website](#).

Individuals who graduated from an international medical outside of the United States or Canada should check the TMB's [list of substantial equivalence](#) to ensure that their medical school meets TMB standards for international medical education.

Satisfactory Academic Progress and Fellow Promotion:

Fellows are expected to make satisfactory academic progress during their training. Fellows who fail to make satisfactory academic progress may be subject to the following in accordance with institutional GME policies: Administrative status; Probation Status, non-renewal of future Alternate Pathway fellowships, and termination. Administrative status is not reportable to the TMB; Probation status, non-renewal of future Alternative Pathway fellowships, and termination must be reported to the TMB.

Fellows will receive a semi-annual (Formative) evaluation that is documented in the Fellow's training file, as well as an end-of-year (Summative) evaluation that is retained in the Fellow's permanent file.

Course of Study and 4-year Plan:

Applicants should be aware that fellowship positions are planned out in advance. It is the Department of Radiology's expectation that Fellows abide by the course of study outlined by the Vice Chair of Education. While special circumstances will be

considered, Fellows are expected to progress through their scheduled fellowships as planned.

The ABR requires that Fellows enrolled in the Alternate Pathway complete 4 months of Nuclear Medicine training. This requirement will be divided into 1 month of Nuclear Medicine training each year spread out over the course of 4 fellowships. **Fellows are not permitted to take vacation while on the Nuclear Medicine rotation.**

Submission of Onboarding Documentation:

All residents and fellows at UT Health San Antonio are required to submit their hiring and credentialing paperwork online through New Innovations; this process is referred to as Onboarding. The Program Coordinator of record for the fellowship will assist new fellows with submitting their paperwork, applying for a PIT, scheduling any needed computer training, and other tasks required before the applicant's start date.

Trainees who are offered a Specialist appointment in the Dept. of Radiology must also apply for the Specialist position through UT Health Careers. Only individuals eligible for Texas full medical licenses may be considered for Specialists positions.

Certificates of Completion:

The UTHSA Graduate Medical Education Office issues certificates of completion of Graduate Medical Education at no cost to trainees (1 per trainee). The certificates will show the name of the program, dates of training, and have the signatures of the Program Director, Dean of the Medical School, and the Designated Institutional Official (DIO).

Applicants who desire additional certificates of completion should contact their Program Coordinator. Applicants are responsible for paying for additional certificate copies.

H1-B Visas:

The Dept. of Radiology may sponsor qualified H1-B visa applicants to the Alternate Pathway. The Program Coordinators are responsible for applying for and renewing H1-B visa requests in partnership with the UTHSA Office of International Services. Fellows are expected to respond promptly to any requests for documents needed for visa application or renewal.

J-1 Visa Holders:

Applicants to the Alternate Pathway who are on a J-1 visa (or will need J-1 visa sponsorship) are not eligible to enroll in the Breast Imaging and Intervention and Emergency Radiology Fellowships. These two specialties are not recognized by the ABMS and thus are not eligible for J-1 sponsorship. A full list of Radiology non-standard subspecialties that are recognized for the purpose of J-1 sponsorship may be found [online at the ECFMG website](#).

Additional Policies and Regulations:

Current Fellows enrolled in non-ACGME accredited Fellowships in the Dept. of Radiology should refer to the “Policies and Procedures for non-ACGME Accredited Fellowships” for more detailed information on Fellow expectations and requirements.

Helpful Links:

American Board of Radiology – Alternate Pathway for IMGs:

<https://www.theabr.org/diagnostic-radiology/initial-certification/alternate-pathways/international-medical-graduates>

Texas Medical Board:

<http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/>

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG):

<https://www.ecfmq.org/>

UT Health San Antonio Graduate Medical Education:

<http://uthscsa.edu/gme/>

UT Health Careers (for Faculty positions):

<https://uthscsa.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl?lang=en&portal=101430233>

UT Health San Antonio Office of International Services:

<http://uthscsa.edu/ois/>