



وكيل معتمد

تشاركية المستقبل للخدمات التعليمية بالخارج

All You Need to Know a Bout Enrolling in American Medical Schools

As a surgeon who is a graduate of Libyan medical schools, I am very happy to see many ambitious young Libyan doctors coming to the United States seeking residency and higher education. This number is getting larger on daily basis. Currently there are over 100 young physicians who have arrived with scholarships from the Libyan government . I am sure there is a similar number or more of graduates who came whit out scholarships. In any case , some issues have arisen and I would like to touch on them .

First of all the incoming doctors rightfully expect some help from us the Libyan physicians who reside and practice in the United states of America. They need help with orientation to the American culture, with housing buying a car having a cell phone opening a bank account and most importantly help with obtaining residency and academic enrollment . we will to offer our assistance as much as we can .

Most have a good grasp of the English Language and have researched their move to the states . Others learn from colleagues after their arrival .

However there are so many doctors who were shocked upon arriving here at the amount of regulation that is required and the need to pass qualifying examinations to become eligible for residency . these are facts and each medical student coming to the USA for graduate studies must be aware of .

All foreign medical graduates must pass certain qualifying medical examinations prior to acceptance to training programs in the United states . Some Libyan doctors have asked why there is a need for such examinations . their desire is to obtain training and return to their beloved country . they also say that they do not wish to practice medicine in the United States ; and most plan to return home as soon as they finish training .

However , rules are rules there are several entities that are involved in medical and surgical training . Graduate medical education ,State medical boards , Medicare, educational commission for foreign medical graduates (ECFMG) and the different specialty boards all have requirements to meet .

For any medical graduate, an educational license is needed to start residency in any teaching hospital . Passing the different parts of the USMLE is necessary to obtain that license . Finishing training in good standing in a training program is necessary to take the specialty board examination and become a board certified physician .

ليبيا - طرابلس - ذات العماد - البرج الخامس - الطابق الأول

تلفون: 00218 . 21 . 3350609 فاكس: 00218 . 21 . 3350239 نقال: 00218 913818282

ص.ب: 91998 E-mail: info@futurely.com web:www.futurely.com



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General Surgery

The ECFMG is the governing body that deals with foreign medical graduate certification to allow those physicians to obtain the needed documentation to start training with educational state license .

The following link is the first step in understanding the process:

<http://www.ecfmg.org/usmle/index.html>

there are many medical and surgical specialties available for a clinical career .

I will mention general surgery and internal medicine as examples .

In the United states , the minimum training period for general surgery is five years . A young doctor from Libya may come to the United states with the hope that he/she will start immediately . Reality shows the road is long and full of hurdles. This real road is as follows.

The candidate may take some English courses , or for the best scenario the young physicians will begin Kaplan medical courses to review material necessary to pass the USMLE.

This is a board overview of the material the medical student has studied in medical school . So if the Libyan graduate has finished medical school four to five years ago, the candidate will need to warm up to sitting for 10 – 12 hours a day studying this material .

Once he/ she feels ready to take the test, the exam is scheduled. Usually one must wait for several weeks before receiving test results . In any case the three exams are needed before one is considered for the match:

1.USMLE1

2.USMLE2 which is two parts (2.CK=clinical knowledge and 3. CS = clinical skills) .

<http://www.usmle.org/index.html> Once one passes the required examination, then and only then is that physician ready to apply for residency .

ERAS then come into the picture: the Electronic Residency Application service (ERAS) :

<http://www.ecfmg.org/eras/index.htm>

ERAS have a cut – off date for filling the application as well as expenses involved . Potential residents need to familiarize themselves with this service . Usually it is in the second half of the calendar year.

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One must apply to the different programs via ERAS and wait for replies to find out who will offer an interview. The interview process goes from November to early February .

If one is lucky , one will have several interviews , then at the end , candidates can rank the programs and wait for the match results (National resident Matching Programme)

<http://www.nurmp.org/>

No one can guarantee the match out come . The match service examines the wishes of the applicants against the wishes of the individuals and their posts . Both individuals and programs respect and abide by that list.

The list is usually produced by the middle of march every year . It usually takes one to two years to finish the examination and the matching process.

In the United States the academic year starts in July . So the raining usually starts July . SO the raining usually year ends June 30 each year .

In the United States , general surgery forms the core of training for most of the other surgical specialties. After you finish general you have the choice of cardiac and thoracic surgery , trauma critical care , minimal invasive ,colorectal, vascular, transplant surgery and surgical oncology fellowships to mention a few. The fellowships usually range between one and three years.

Urology , orthopedic surgery , neurosurgery , and plastic surgery have their own programs and match from the start.

Internal Medicine

One follows essentially the same steps as for general surgery . The length of training is three years. Then one can decide if there is a desire to enter a fellowship in one of the medical subspecialties. Pulmonary and critical care ,cardiology, gastroenterology , nephrology , transplant nephrology are all examples of such fellowships . they usually are about three years in length .

This is a simple overview of the process and I hope others may add to it so the process become clear to our young doctors.

Having said that, I can think of the following points as basis to help and guide our colleagues who are coming to the United States for residency and higher education :



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1. As consultants in the united States, we should work hard to establish observer ship programs to accommodate serious young doctors . . observer ships help by orienting the potential applicant to the American health system and patient care . It also gives the potential applicant a chance to interact with American physicians and observe doctor – patient relation ships as well as doctor- doctor relation ships.
2. As a consultant one may make one self available by speaking to these young physicians and advising them about the process
3. As a consultant one can help with structuring personal statements and curriculum vitae. We all know that both are important for the quality of the application .
4. Helping to secure an interview or a residency spot would be great . The latter is difficult in most cases.
5. It is the duty of Ibnosina medical Association members (www.ibnosina.org) to assist these young doctors by attempting to answer their questions to the best of our knowledge.

Again these are just quick ideas that came to mind . I hope others may add to this and continue to help advancing the career of these young doctors. I hope the best for all of you.

الإتصال بنا

لمزيد من المعلومات أرجو الإتصال علي العنوان التالي / ذات العماد – البرج الخامس – الدور الأول
هاتف: 3350609 – نقال: 0913818282 – فاكس: 3350239
info@futurely.com www.futurely.com
مواعيد العمل : من يوم الاحد إلى يوم الخميس من الساعة التاسعة إلى الساعة الواحدة ظهراً

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