

Request for Sponsorship Authorization



The U.S. Department of State (DOS) authorizes Intealth to sponsor certain individuals as J-1 exchange visitor physicians following a period in another J-1 category. These individuals are granted what is called a “change of category.” This approval is limited to the training program, training institution, and duration specified by the DOS at the time of approval. Any proposed deviation or addition, such as related subspecialty training, must be authorized by the DOS through a formal sponsorship authorization request.

The documentation listed below is the minimum required to file such a request.

Note that the proposed duration must be within the seven-year maximum duration unless also applying for an exceptional extension:

<https://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/evspeememo.pdf>

Required Documentation for Sponsorship Authorization Request

All required documentation must be uploaded by the TPL and/or applicant through MyIntealth at the time of application.

- **COMPLETE APPLICATION FOR CONTINUED INTEALTH SPONSORSHIP**
The standard continuation application documents are required in addition to the documents outlined below. View the application checklist here: <https://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/continuation-accredited.pdf>.
- **UPDATED STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES (SEO) FROM APPLICANT**
Completion of SEO Form. In the form, the applicant should provide justification as to why the proposed clinical training is being pursued. If additional training is anticipated beyond the proposed program, specify the program’s duration and subspecialty if known. If available, also upload any future offer letters. The SEO Form is available at <https://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/applicant-SEO.pdf>.
- **LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM APPLICANT’S CURRENT AND PROPOSED PROGRAM DIRECTORS**
Both the current and proposed program directors must each provide a letter of support for the applicant on institutional letterhead. Letters of support do not need to be lengthy but must focus specifically on the clinical value of the proposed training, how the physician will benefit from the clinical skills and knowledge to be acquired, and how the current program relates to the proposed training activity. The two letters cannot be identical and must be signed by the appropriate program director. If the program director is the same, one strong letter is sufficient. In drafting the letters, it is important to be aware that the J-1 visa is a temporary, nonimmigrant visa reserved for educational and cultural exchange, and thus carries with it the expectation that physicians will return to their home country at the end of their training.
- **INTEALTH APPLICATION FEE OF \$370.00**
The standard \$370.00 application fee must be paid through MyIntealth at the time of application submission.
- **DOS CASE PROCESSING FEES OF \$567.00**
After the application is determined to be a DOS case, the applicant will be invoiced an additional \$567 (\$200 Intealth review and preparation fee + \$367 DOS processing fee). Once received, Intealth will submit the \$367 processing fee to DOS on the applicant’s behalf.

Sponsorship Authorization (SA) Requests – What to Expect

- Intealth and the U.S. Department of State are aware of program start dates and work closely together to render decisions before the start date in all cases when possible.
- Once a request is complete and under review, status updates are generally not available. We recognize that waiting can be stressful and appreciate your patience.
- Applicants and TPLs will be notified promptly by email as soon as there is an update or a decision to share.
- Sponsorship Authorization requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and approval cannot be guaranteed.
- Applicants are required to maintain J-1 status while their case is under review.
- If an applicant has applied for a waiver of the two-year home-country physical presence requirement or has otherwise demonstrated immigrant intent, this information will be considered as part of the overall review.

Intealth sponsorship following SA approval applies only to the training program and time frame approved. Any proposed changes or additions must again be reviewed and approved through a formal sponsorship authorization request.

Please contact JProgram@intealth.org
with questions about the sponsorship authorization process.