Visiting International Student Elective Program University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (UPSOM) School of Medicine Visa Information

United States Citizenship and Immigration Service regulations define "elective clerkships" as practical experience and instruction, in the various disciplines of medicine, under the supervision and direction of faculty physicians. The regulations permit students from international medical schools to take those clerkships at American medical schools, as an approved part of their medical education, under B-1 Visitor for Business status, per instruction in the Foreign Affairs Manual.

A special student visa is not necessary. Well in advance of the date of your planned departure, you should apply for a B-1 visa at an American Embassy or Consulate, if your country is not in the ESTA program. At your U.S. port of entry be prepared to show your B-1 visa, your notice of acceptance from UPSOM, and proof that you have access to sufficient funds to support yourself during your visit. The border official should note your status of entry in the online entry database noting B-1 status and how long you can stay. Canadians are exempt from the visa requirements but will need to present a valid passport and should be granted B-1 status on the I-94 entry.

If you are from a visa waiver country (listed below), you have the option of requesting entry into the U.S. under the terms of ESTA, the visa waiver program. Prior to your arrival you will need to go online for a prescreening by the United States Department of Homeland Security through ESTA. Applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel, however it is recommended to submit no less than 72 hours prior to your departure. In most cases you will receive a response within seconds. There is a fee of $14.00 USD. You will not be granted entry under the visa waiver program without having completed your ESTA registration. At your point of entry to the United States you will present your print out confirming ESTA screening, your notice of acceptance to the UPSOM International Student Elective Program and proof of funding to demonstrate you can cover your expenses during your stay. The border official will note your entry in the online I-94 database. You do not need to apply for a visa at the US consulate. You must have a machine-readable passport and have previously registered for ESTA. It is important to clearly explain the amount of time you need in the US, as it is at the discretion of the border official to grant from one up to six months in the B-1 category or up to 90 days in the ESTA category, as that official deems suitable for your visit.

ESTA countries Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Malta, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom