

UTHSCSA Graduate Medical Education Policies

Section 1	General Policies and Procedures	Effective:	August 2012
Policy 2.14.2	International Travel for Trainees on Visas	Revised:	July 2016
		Responsibility:	Designated Institutional Official
<b>International Travel for Trainees on J-1 or H-1B Visas</b>			
Purpose	The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for trainees on visas when traveling outside of the United States.		
Policy	<p>The GME Committee recognizes that many trainees travel outside of the United States (U.S.). Trainees with visas may encounter unexpected delays when applying for visas abroad that prevent them from returning to academic responsibilities as scheduled. Trainees with visas must contact the Office of International Services (210-567-6241, <a href="mailto:international@uthscsa.edu">international@uthscsa.edu</a>) <b>prior to making travel arrangements</b> if leaving the U.S. during their training programs. For trainees on an ECFMG-sponsored J-1 visa, prior to departure a travel signature from ECFMG is required.</p> <p>(Trainees who plan to travel abroad for <u>any</u> HSC-associated or sponsored business or academic purposes to countries that may fall under a U.S. Department of State Travel Warning must obtain approval from the International Oversight Committee of an International Travel to High Risk Areas Waiver well in advance of the planned travel date. Approval of the waiver request is not guaranteed. Please refer to HOP Chapter 15 for more information about travel to restricted regions.)</p> <p>A trainee who is prevented from returning to the U.S. as scheduled due to unforeseen travel delays will continue to receive his/her stipend up to the remaining allotment of vacation. Once a trainee reaches the maximum allotment of vacation days, s/he will be required to take an unpaid leave of absence for the remainder of his/her time away. Benefit coverage will continue.</p> <p>Additional circumstances of the continued absence may allow the trainee to be eligible for another type of leave (e.g. emergency leave/funerals, short-term disability).</p> <p>Extended breaks in time during training may negatively impact board eligibility – see GME Policy 7.3.1.</p>		

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In the case of an extended absence which is disruptive to other trainees within the program, the program director may elect to rescind the appointment and fill the position.