

B1/B2 Visa Visitors

The B-1/B-2 visa classifications may be used by scholars who plan to pay short visits to one or several campuses in the United States. It is not intended for use by a scholar accepting any type of formal academic appointment for a term or longer. B visa visitors can receive academic appointments at the Medical College but cannot receive any salary or compensation for services.

NITC Fellows: It is very important to apply for the correct type of visa, otherwise your visa application will be denied. As we do not provide visa sponsorship and thus cannot support F, J, or H visas, you will need to apply for a B1 or B1/B2 visa (do not apply for a B2 visa) as a clinical observer using an invitation letter that we will provide to you. The use of this visa for your stay is permitted under **9 FAM 402.2-5(F)(3)(U)**, which defines “a medical doctor otherwise classifiable H1 as a member of a profession whose purpose for coming to the United States is to observe U.S. medical practices and consult with colleagues on latest techniques, provided no remuneration is received from a U.S. source and no patient care is involved. Failure to pass the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) is irrelevant in such a case.” Here is an **example of a B1 visa** issued to a former fellow, note the annotation.

NITC Medical Students: If you require a visa, you should also apply for a B1 visa using an invitation letter that we provide to you. The use of this visa for this type of clerkship is permitted under **9 FAM 402.2-5(E)(3)(U)** paragraph b, “an alien who is studying at a foreign medical school and seeks to enter the United States temporarily in order to take an “elective clerkship” at a U.S. medical school’s hospital without remuneration from the hospital...”

Visa Waiver Program: Fellows and medical students coming for less than 90 days and who qualify for a visa waiver (see "**Visa Waiver Program Designated Countries**"), should apply for this instead of a visa using the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>. Visitors who qualify for this program may request WB (waiver business) or WT (waiver tourist) status upon entry into the U.S. Both the WB and WT visits are limited to 90 days with no extensions or change of status possible. ESTA applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel. Visitors should submit an ESTA application as soon as they begin making travel plans. Visa Waiver Program travelers who have not obtained approval through ESTA should expect to be denied boarding on any air carrier bound for the United States.

When entering the United States, all visitors regardless of visa or visa waiver status should be ready to present the above mentioned invitation letter to the admitting Customs and Border Protection officer.