

INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Much of the following information comes from three full time premed advisors, the MSAR and a Pre-Med Handbook. See Dr Provost for more information.

It is extremely difficult for international applicants who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States to gain admission to American medical schools. State-supported medical schools rarely consider international applicants for admission, and those private schools that do accept applications generally require that international students place in escrow the equivalent of one to four years tuition and fees (U.S.\$40,000-\$200,000). Unlike undergraduate education there are virtually no scholarships available for medical school, and in order to qualify for U.S. government-sponsored loans the applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Thus, international applicants who are considering a career as a medical doctor and hoping to receive their education at an American medical school should think carefully before applying for admission to an undergraduate program in the United States.

Although we have a few international students admitted to medical school each year, it is traditionally to MD/PhD programs that are financed solely through the funds of the medical school. These students in general entered the university with the intent of proceeding to a PhD program.

It is important for international students to know that they need not only to be viable candidates in the academic sense (grades, test scores) and in the other ways candidates are assessed. Medical schools which do accept foreign nationals usually require matriculants to have official evidence of a bank escrow account with funding to cover all four years of tuition and living costs, which can be as much as several hundred thousand dollars.

International candidates are separate but (almost) equal. They are separate because, at state-supported schools, they are competing for a different group of seats than do residents of that state. Most of the admissions requirements and traffic rules are the same for domestic and international applicants; a notable exception is that international applicants have to demonstrate proficiency in English as a second language. I believe this would still be the case if the international applicant has an undergraduate degree from a US school.

A list of medical schools accepting more foreign students (from MSRA and other sources)

- 1) Medical College of Wisconsin
- 2) Chicago Medical School
- 3) Northwestern University
- 4) Tufts University
- 5) University of Chicago
- 6) New York Medical College
- 7) University of Texas, Houston
- 8) University of Texas, San Antonio
- 9) Washington University
- 10) George Washington University
- 11) Georgetown University
- 12) Hahnemann
- 13) Thomas Jefferson
- 14) University of Rochester
- 15) Baylor University
- 16) Creighton
- 17) University of Texas, Southwestern MD-PhD only
- 18) Boston University, MD-PhD and MD
- 19) Emory
- 20) Wake Forest

The following is advise given by Wake Forest University advisors about international students looking for medical schools to apply to: All the "good" schools i.e. ivy league and Stanford – Look for private schools that accept them as equals in out of state pools. Wake Forest is one of them.

In 2005, I contacted 21 medical schools advisors about accepting MD PHD candidates from international applicants. The following schools will consider international students:

Univ. of MN- Paid for with internal funds- need to be very competitive.

Emory University

Tufts University

Cornell Univ.

Northwestern Univ

St. Louis University- no funds for MD years

Univ. of Pennsylvania

Washington University

Medical College of GA

Harvard Medical College- one international student a year-internal funds only.

Information for International Students Planning to Study Medicine

Xavier Pre-Health Professions Advising website from the College of social and Natural Sciences.

http://www.xu.edu/health_advising/international_students.cfm

In 2003, of the 16,538 matriculating students at U.S. medical schools, there were only a total of 209 students who were not U.S. citizens or who were not permanent U.S. residents (did not have a "Green Card"). As you can see, this is a very small number of international matriculants. It is extremely difficult for international applicants who are not U.S. citizens or do not have permanent residency to gain admission to American medical schools.

As explained in the 2004-2005 Medical School Admission Requirements, published by the Association of American Medical Colleges, this very small number of international matriculants results from several factors:

* Many public medical schools limit enrollment to state residents.

*State residency statues require that applicants be either U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

*Many private medical schools require international applicants to document their ability to independently finance a medical education.

*Many countries impose severe restrictions on exportation of currency.

*Federal financial aid sources generally require either U.S. citizenship or permanent residency.

International applicants who wish to come to the United States to eventually receive their medical education in an American medical school should be aware of these issues, and think very carefully before applying for admission to an undergraduate program in the United States.