

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FACT SHEET

Applying to a U.S. College of Osteopathic Medicine as an International Student

International students, defined as students who are not U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents, may pursue their education in osteopathic medicine at several U.S. osteopathic medical schools. However, various policies and government regulations make the process more challenging and complex for international candidates. AACOM urges international prospective students to review all prerequisite requirements, visa, financial aid, graduate medical education and other important information provided by the respective school before considering applying to a college of osteopathic medicine.

This fact sheet contains a brief overview of pertinent information for international students to consider when applying to a U.S. college of osteopathic medicine. Please be aware that this document **does not serve as individualized career or legal advice**. It is the responsibility of each individual student that is impacted by this information to contact the appropriate agencies, systems, and individual schools in order to obtain the most up-to-date information regarding the requirements for his or her specific circumstances.

Which osteopathic medical schools accept international students?

International students are considered for admission to the following colleges of osteopathic medicine: (subject to change)

- Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University (AZCOM/MWU)
- Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM)
- Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine (CUSOM)
- Chicago COM of Midwestern University (CCOM/MWU)
- Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCUMB-COM)
- Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM)
- Lincoln Memorial University–DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (LMU-DCOM)
- Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MU-COM)
- Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM)
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM)
- Georgia Campus - Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (GA-PCOM)
- Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine (NSU-COM)
- Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine (RowanSOM)
- Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine - New York (TouroCOM-NY)
- University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNECOM)
- University of North Texas Health Science Center/Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNTHSC/TCOM)
- University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (UP-KYCOM)
- Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Auburn (VCOM-Auburn)
- Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Carolinas Campus (VCOM-CC)
- Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Virginia Campus (VCOM-VC)
- Western University of Health Sciences–College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (WesternU/COMP) Pomona campus only
- William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (WCUCOM)

For additional information including links to requirements and policy for each school, view the [AACOM Osteopathic College Information Book's "International Students" Chart](#). International students should consult medical schools directly for the latest information on their policies.

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Does the application process differ for international students?

Transcripts are required to be sent to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Applications Service (AACOMAS) from all U.S. and English-speaking Canadian institutions. Canadian schools that provide English transcripts are not considered foreign. Please see the [U.S. and English Canadian Transcripts](#) section of the AACOMAS Application Instructions for how to report your work. Please see the [Foreign and French Canadian Transcripts section](#) for policies related to the collection of transcripts from international institutions. Please visit the [AACOMAS application instructions](#) for general information on the application process.

Are there visa requirements?

In order to pursue education in the United States, all international students need a visa indicating eligibility for entry and reentry into the United States in the immigration category indicated (F-1, J-1, H-1B, TN, etc.). Applicants are responsible for knowing the current visa requirements for education in the U.S.

What financing options do international students have?

International students typically rely on private loans or institutional loans (if offered by the medical school) to finance their education. Federal financial aid such as Direct Stafford, Direct PLUS, and Perkins Loans are only offered to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Some medical schools may require that applicants prove they have sufficient financial resources to pay for all four years of medical school and/or may require full tuition at the time of confirmation. However, international students may be eligible for merit scholarships or other school-specific funding. Contact the schools individually to learn more about their financial aid policies for international students.

Can international students apply for graduate medical education programs?

Every Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) hospital system handles the visa status of non-citizen resident candidates with its own unique procedures. Due to these important differences, you must contact the appropriate medical education office for the most up-to-date information for that hospital system.

Additional Resources

Accredited Programs and Sponsoring Institutions – www.acgme.org
American Osteopathic Association – www.osteopathic.org
FREIDA Online – www.ama-assn.org/go/freida
AAMC ERAS website – www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/eras
ERAS Support Services at ECFMG – www.ecfmg.org/eras
National Resident Matching Program – www.nrmp.org
U.S. Department of State Exchange Visitor Program – <http://j1visa.state.gov>
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services – www.uscis.gov
U.S. Department of Homeland Security – www.dhs.gov
American Osteopathic Association – [DOs Around the World](#)

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Applying to a U.S. College of Osteopathic Medicine as a Canadian Student

Traditionally, a majority of the international students that apply and attend colleges of osteopathic medicine are from Canada. Information below, as well as all aforementioned information, applies to prospective Canadian students:

What type of documentation do I need to enter as a student?

Check the [Canadian Consulate in Ottawa's website](#) to find out what documentation will be required to enter the United States as a student.

Is financial support available?

Canadian students studying in osteopathic medical programs in the United States may be eligible for Canadian government and private loans. Canadian government loans depend on the requirements and regulations of the student's specific province of residence. [CanLearn](#) provides Canadians with information and services needed around education and costs, and specific information for provinces and territories in Canada. You may also consider private loans but be aware of the financial implications.

What regulations related to graduate medical education should I be aware of?

Beginning in 2016, new regulations in Canada will consider graduates of U.S. colleges of osteopathic medicine as international medical graduates (IMGs) for eligibility to participate in graduate medical education programs in Canada. [View more on eligibility criteria for residency](#) on the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) website.

If you complete residency in the United States and wish to return to Canada to practice, the National Practice Guidelines in Canada has several regulations and requirements. One of the requirements for full licensure is the completion of ACGME-accredited postgraduate training. The Medical Council of Canada provides further [guidance on eligibility for licensure](#) in Canada, although the responsibility for conferring licenses to physicians in Canada belongs to the [provincial and territorial medical regulatory authorities](#). It is in your best interest to contact the appropriate Canadian regulatory body in order to obtain the most accurate and up to-date information.

Where can I find more information as a prospective Canadian student?

Prospective students should contact schools directly to learn more about current school policies and contact relevant regulatory agencies and certifying bodies for up-to-date information. The following resources may be helpful in this effort:

[Canadian Resident Matching Service \(CaRMS\)](#)

[CaRMS FAQs for International Medical Graduates and US Osteopathic Medical Graduates](#)

[Medical Council of Canada \(MCC\)](#)

[Canadian Osteopathic Association](#)

[MSU COM Student Services Career Guidance: Canadian Student Resource Guide](#)

[College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific: A Resource for Applicants with Canadian Citizenship](#)

[Visa Information for Osteopathic Profession](#)

[The Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada](#)

[Medical Regulatory Authorities in Canada](#)

[Canadian Osteopathic Medical Student Association](#)