

Από την Ελλάδα στις ΗΠΑ: Ο Δρόμος για την Εισαγωγή στην Ειδίκευση και Εξειδίκευση Χειρουργικής

Specialty and Subspecialty/Fellowship in US for International Medical Graduates

Ευθύμιος Αυγερινός, MD, FACS, FEBVS

Αν. Καθηγητής ΕΚΠΑ

Β' Αγγειοχειρουργική Κλινική, «Λαϊκό» Νοσοκομείο



UPMC

LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE





The International Medical Graduate (IMG)

- Physician who graduated from a medical school out of U.S.
- The medical school of graduation MUST be listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools
- IMG's comprise one-quarter of U.S. physician workforce
- Start at [nrmp.org](https://www.nrmp.org)

National Resident Matching Program

CH 70 YEARS 1952 - 2022
Building on the past, investing in the future

70th Anniversary About Policies FAQs LOG IN/REGI

The Match | Match Calendars | Residency Applicants | Fellowship Applicants | Programs & Institutions | Medical Schools | Match

70 YEARS 1952 - 2022
THE MATCH
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM®
Building on the past, investing in the future

Fair, Equitable, Efficient,
Transparent, and Reliable

Updates
VIEW ALL NEWS

TODAY	March 13, 2023	March 10, 2023
RESULTS MATCH WEEK MATCH DAY RESIDENCY APPLICANT INSTITUTIONS PROGRAMS MEDICAL SCHOOLS NRMP® Celebrates	THE MATCH PROCESS RANKING ABOUT MATCH PARTICIPANTS NRMP® Call for Public Comment	RESULTS MATCH WEEK RESIDENCY APPLICANT INSTITUTIONS PROGRAMS MEDICAL SCHOOLS NRMP® to Reveal

THE RESIDENCY MATCH 2021 NON-U.S. CITIZEN IMGs



THESUCCESSFULMATCH.COM

THE RESIDENCY MATCH 2021 U.S. MD SENIORS



THESUCCESSFULMATCH.COM

THE MATCH

NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM

US medical students

67%

General surgery

5%

IMGs Without US citizenship

85%

% of applicants who matched

31%

% of applicants who matched

Pathways to Enter US as an IMG

Residency

1. USMLE Entry Path



Post Residency

1. Clinical Fellowship
2. Research Fellowship



Alternate Entry

1. Attending position w USMLE
2. Attending position w/out USMLE
3. Special Path State of Tennessee





Boosting Your Residency Opportunities as an International Medical Graduate (IMG)

August 8, 2025

Residency Program Types

Categorical: Full residency

Preliminary: 1-2 years of training

Advanced: Starts at PGY-2 (after prelim)

Fellowship: Subspecialty training

The Road to Residency

USMLE Step 1

+

USMLE Step 2

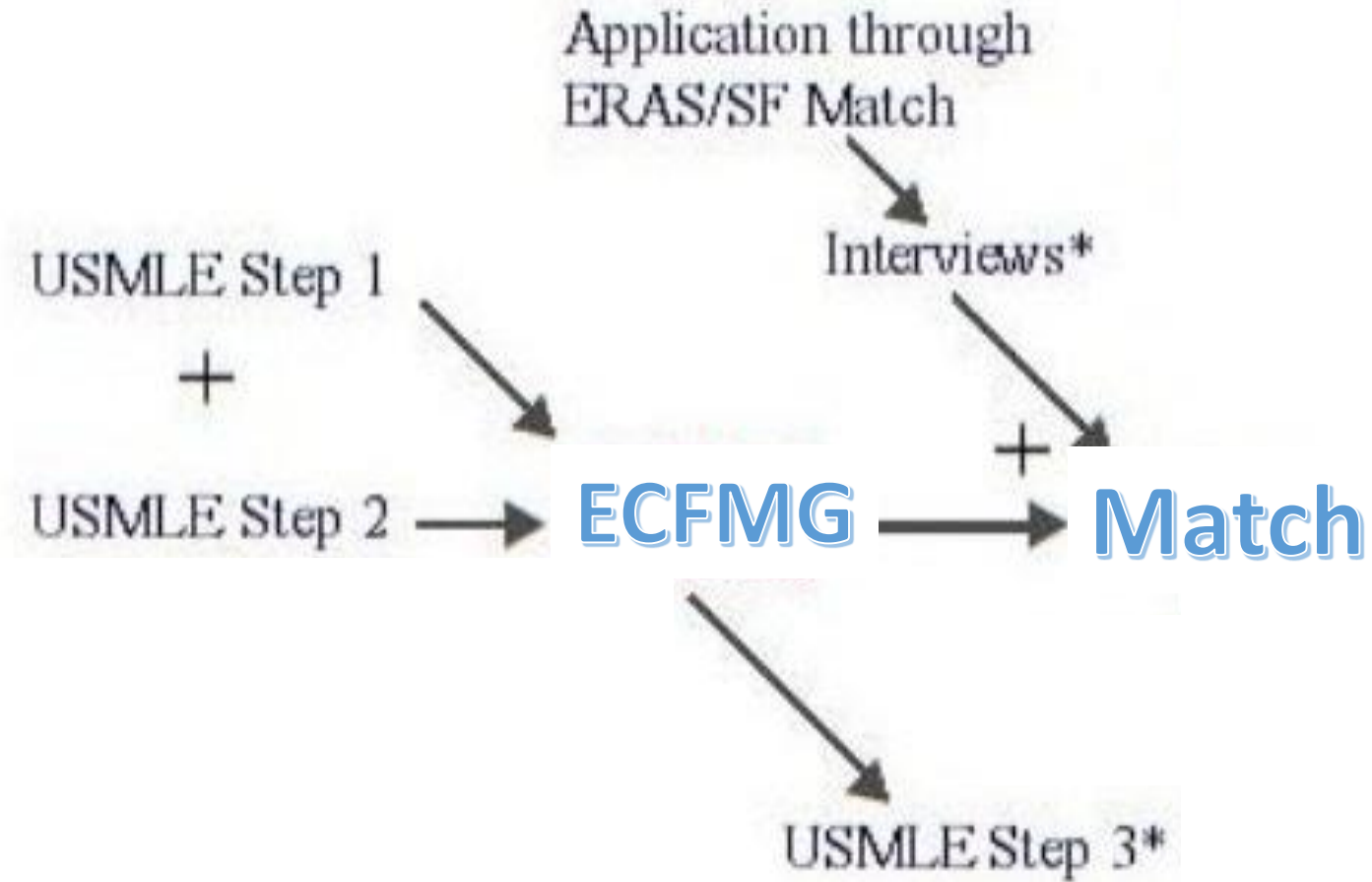


ECFMG



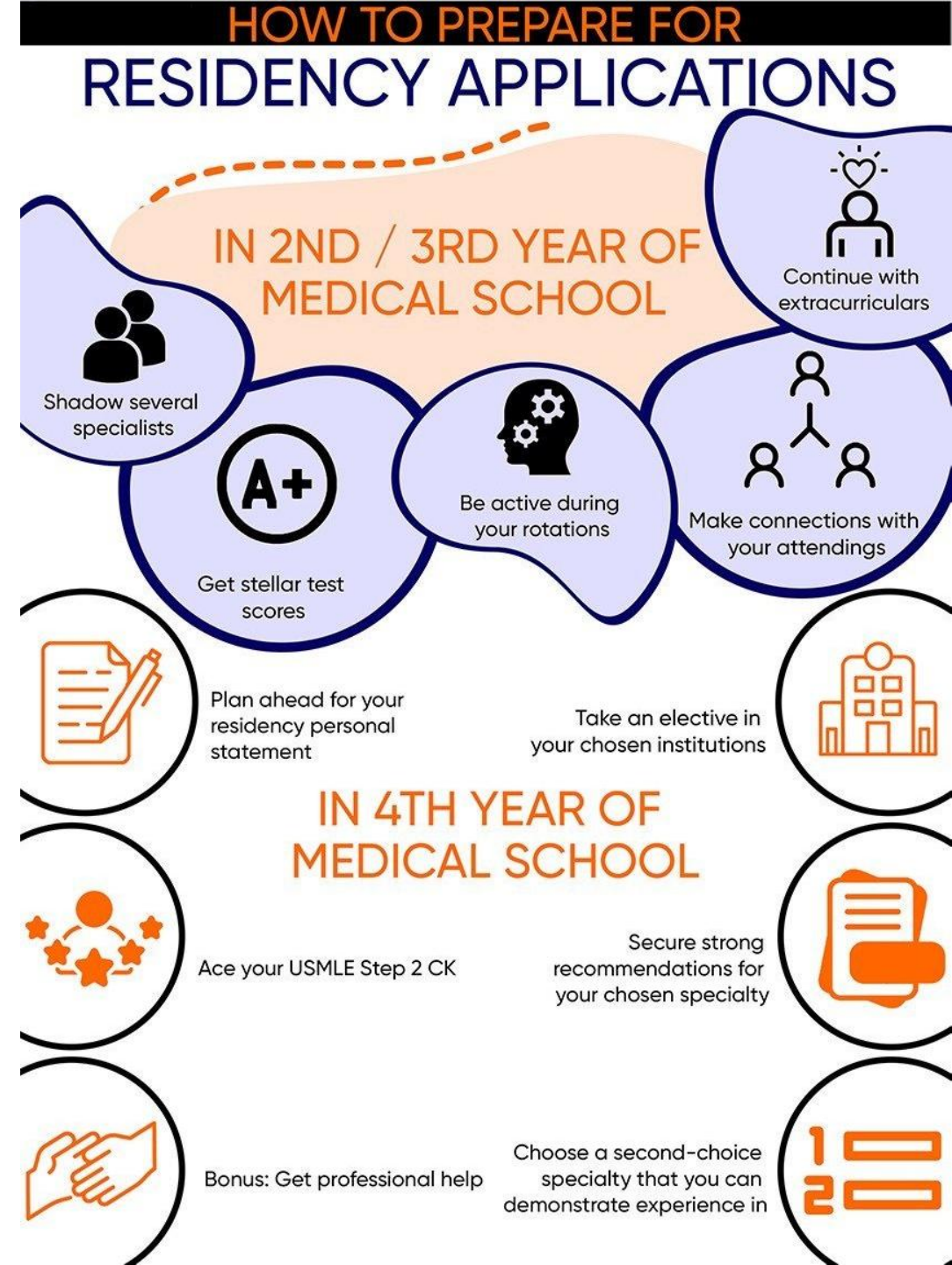
USMLE Step 3*

The Road to Residency



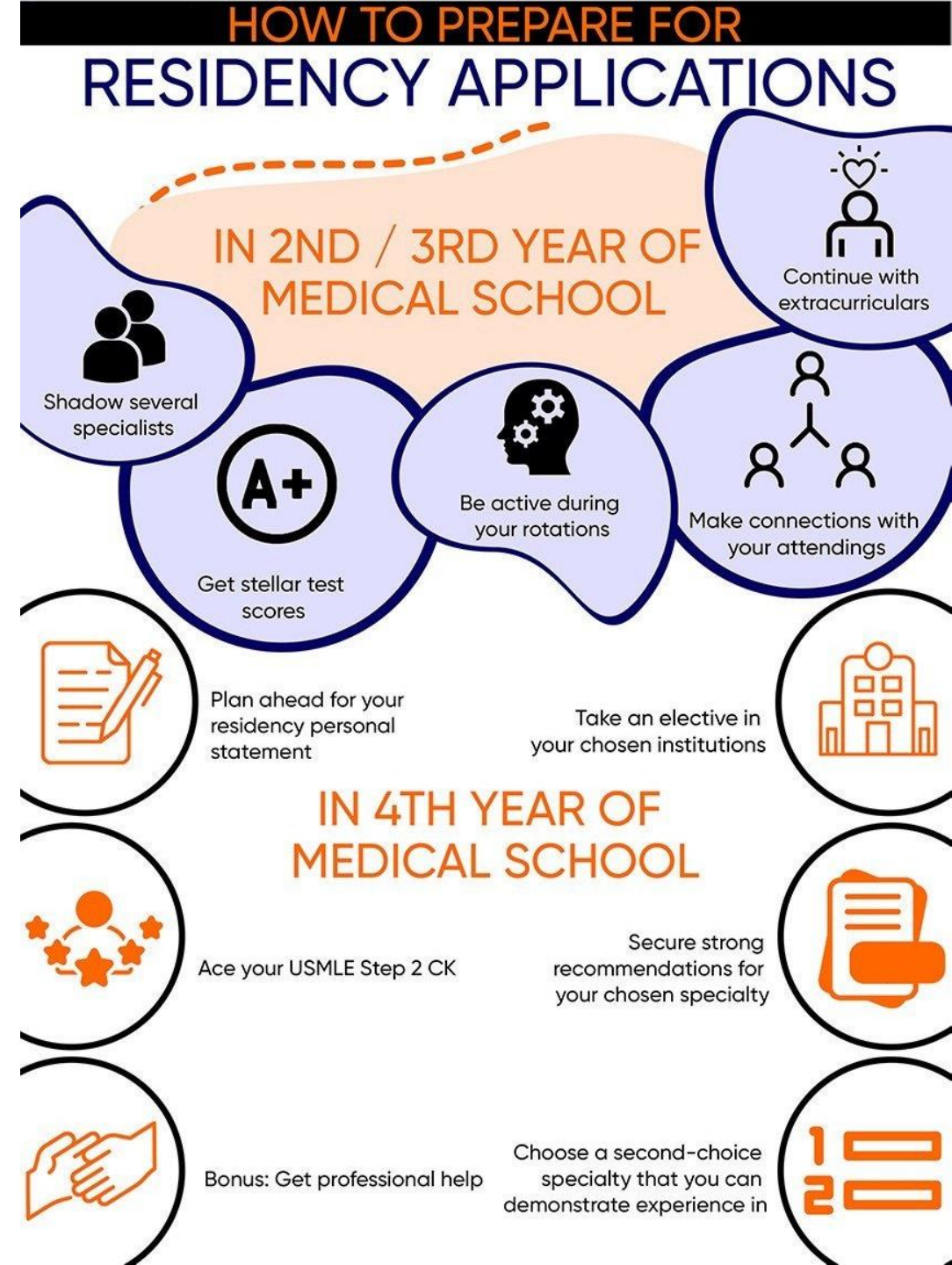
Prepare a Strong Application

- ✓ Plan ahead – 2nd/3rd Year of Medical School
 - ✓ Pass USMLE 1 - Score High USMLE 2



Prepare a Strong Application

- ✓ Plan ahead – 2nd/3rd Year of Medical School
 - ✓ Pass USMLE 1 - Score High USMLE 2
- ✓ Plan electives in US hospitals
 - ✓ Ask help from your mentors
 - ✓ Be active at your visits
 - ✓ Ask for Recommendation Letters
- ✓ Research and Publications
 - ✓ Relevant to your specialty
 - ✓ High Quality Journals



Should I Do **RESEARCH** Prior to Residency?



By Malke Asaad, MD

US-Based Research “Opens Doors” for non-US IMGs...





Disadvantages

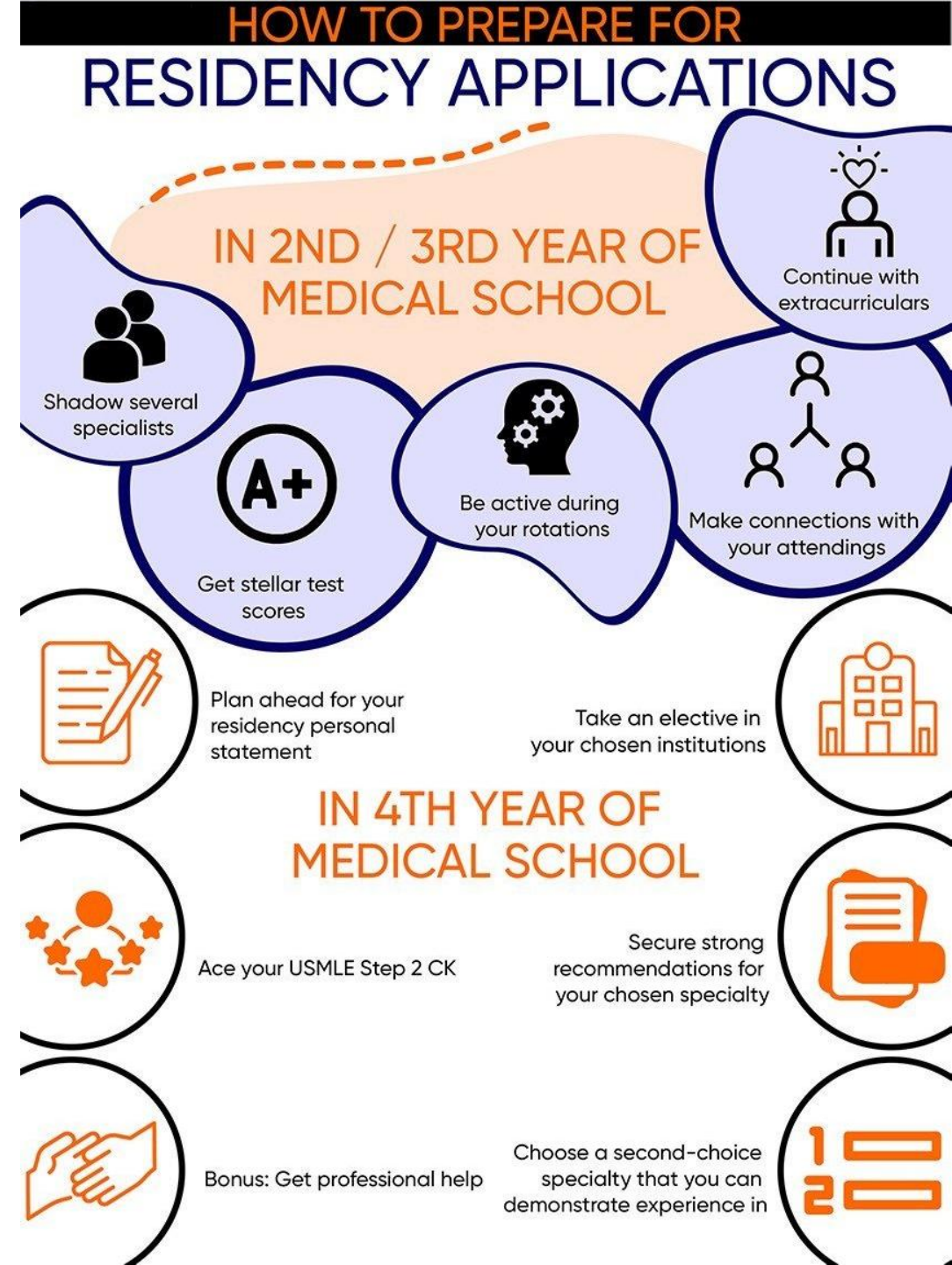
01 / Away from clinical activity

02 / Effect on clinical skills

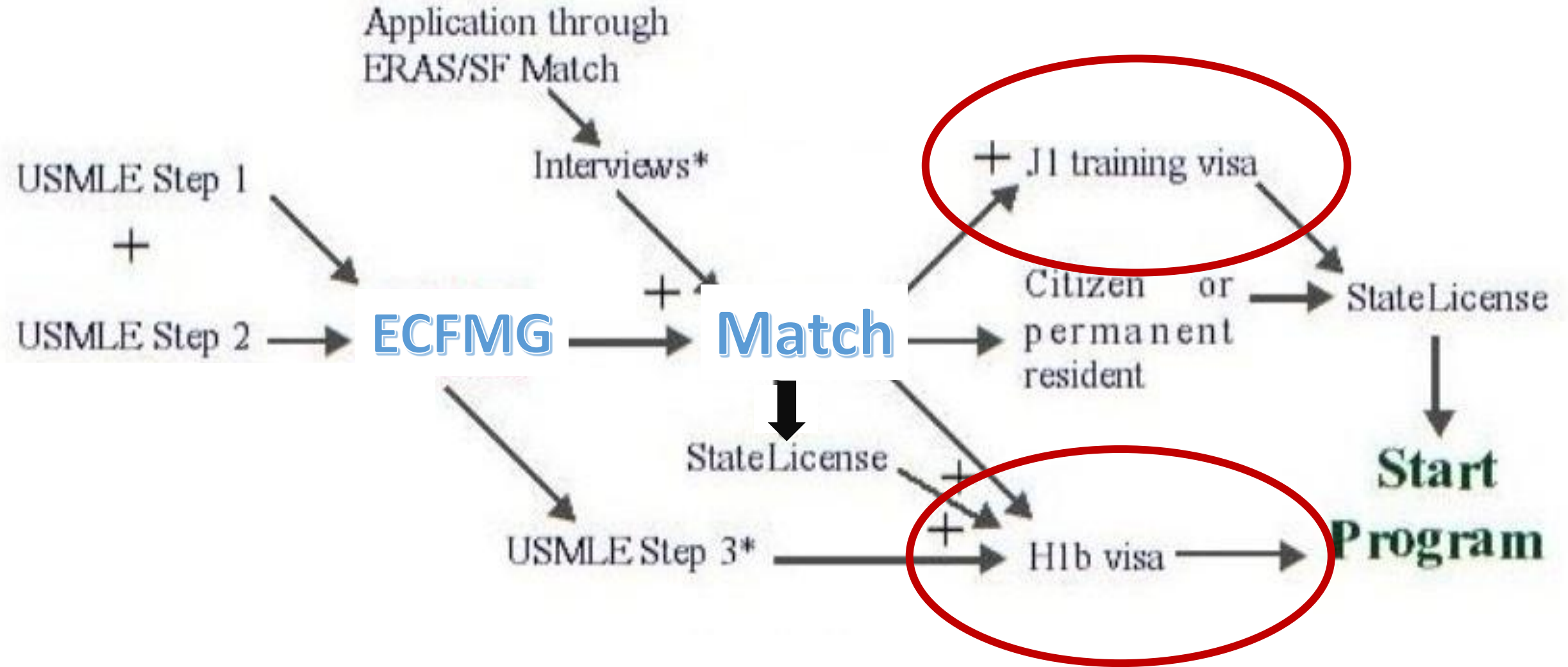
03 / Cost 
> 10000 \$\$

Prepare a Strong Application

- ✓ Plan ahead – 2nd/3rd Year of Medical School
 - ✓ Pass USMLE 1 - Score High USMLE 2
- ✓ Plan electives in US hospitals
 - ✓ Ask help from your mentors
 - ✓ Be active at your visits
 - ✓ Ask for Recommendation Letters
- ✓ Research and Publications
 - ✓ Relevant to your specialty
 - ✓ High Quality Journals
- ✓ Make sure you have or create extracurricular activities
 - ✓ Sports Teams / Medals
 - ✓ Scouts – Team Leader
 - ✓ Military service
 - ✓ President of a Society
 - ✓ Humanitarian Missions
- ✓ Personal Statement – Why you aspire to be a ...?
 - ✓ Be creative – Be a philosopher – Be smart
 - ✓ Bring out your inner true self
 - ✓ Go beyond medicine



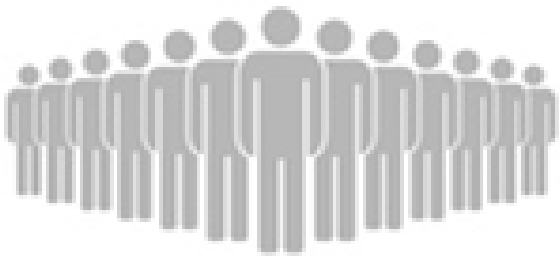
The Road to Residency



Pathways to Enter US as an IMG

Residency

1. USMLE Entry Path



Post Residency

1. Clinical Fellowship
2. Research Fellowship



Alternate Entry

1. Attending position w USMLE
2. Attending position w/out USMLE
3. Special Path State of Tennessee



[Home](#) › [Fellowship Applicants](#) › [Participating Fellowships](#)

Participating Fellowships

Participating Fellowships

[Colon and Rectal Surgery Match](#)

[Emergency Medicine Match](#)

[Epilepsy and Clinical
Neurophysiology Match](#)

[Psychiatry Match](#)

[Radiology Match](#)

[Rehabilitation Medicine Match](#)

[Forensic Psychiatry Match](#)

[Hand Surgery Match](#)

[Headache Medicine Match](#)

[Spinal Cord Injury
Medicine Match](#)

[Sports Medicine Match](#)

[Surgical Critical Care Match](#)

[Laryngology Match](#)

[Medical Genetics Match](#)

[Medicine and Pediatric
Specialties Match](#)

[Surgical Oncology Match](#)

[Thoracic Surgery Match](#)

[Urogynecology & Reconstructive
Pelvic Surgery Match](#)

[Neuroendovascular Intervention
Match](#)

[Neurosurgical Oncology Match](#)

[Obstetrics & Gynecology Match](#)

[Vascular Neurology Match](#)

[Vascular Surgery Match](#)

[Pain Medicine Match](#)

[Pathology Match](#)

[Pediatric Surgery Match](#)

Clinical Fellowship

- 1. ACGME Residency**
- 2. ECFMG Certification**
- 3. USMLE Step 3 – Good to have for H-1B Visa**
- 4. Strong CV / Personal Statement**
- 5. Strong LoR**
 - a. Research Background
 - b. Prior US Rotations during residency
 - c. Connect early with the Program Director/Chair
 - d. Ask help from your local US affiliated mentors

Life after Clinical Fellowship

Practice in the USA

Requires completing the J-1 waiver (if applicable) or having an H-1B/Green Card. Can lead to academic positions (university hospital) or private practice (often group-based).

Return to Home Country

Bring back advanced skills. Become a leader in your subspecialty. Establish new programs or centers of excellence. Fulfills J-1 visa requirements.

1. **Residency match ...targeting an attending position**
2. **If exceptional IMG can obtain an attending license**

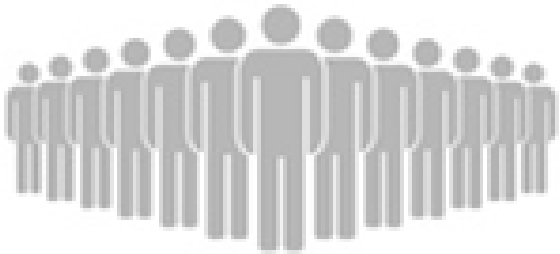
Research Fellowship

1. **ACGME Residency**
2. **ECFMG Certification Not Required** to start but preferable
3. **Strong CV / Personal Statement**
4. **Strong LoR**
 - a. Research Background
 - b. Prior US Rotations during residency
 - c. Connect early with the Lead Researcher / Chief of the Department
 - d. Ask help from your local US affiliated mentors
5. **Paid position though not sustainable**
6. **Difficult to access clinical involvement**

Pathways to Enter US as an IMG

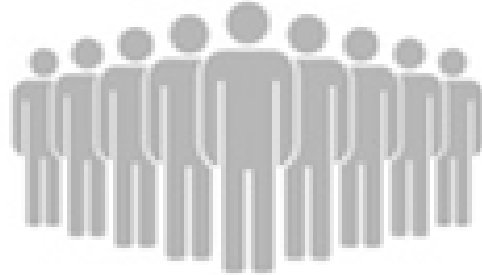
Residency

1. USMLE Entry Path



Post Residency

1. Clinical Fellowship
2. Research Fellowship

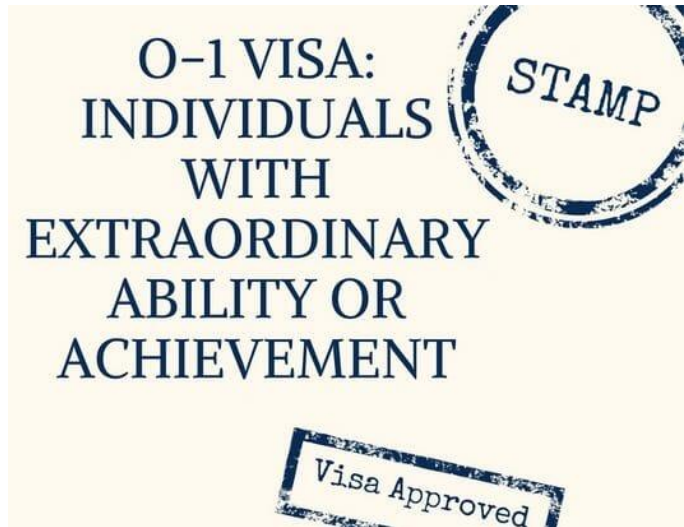


Alternate Entry

1. Attending position w USMLE
2. Attending position w/out USMLE
3. Special Path State of Tennessee



Alternate IMG Entry as an Attending Physician



Thank you for your attention!
eavgerinos@vascularhealth.gr



How to Get a Fellowship in the USA? A Step-by-Step Guide For IMGs

2 Comments / By IMG Secrets / February 9, 2024

Keys to Success for IMGs

- ✓ **Start Early:** Visa and ECFMG paperwork takes time. Plan 1-2 years ahead.
- ✓ **Excel in Residency:** This is your "audition." Your program director's letter is your most important document.
- ✓ **Research, Research, Research:** Especially for competitive surgical subs, a strong publication record is vital.
- ✓ **Find Mentors:** Connect with faculty and other IMGs who have successfully navigated this path.

