HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL | OFFICE OF Scholarly Engagement

Suggestions for Clerkship Applications to Harvard Medical School through the Online VSLO Program

1. Information on apply for clerkships at HMS is at https://hms.harvard.edu/departments/office-registrar/visiting-students-program and more information is on the left side column under **Visiting Students Program**.
2. Foreign students who are from schools listed at the bottom of the HMS eligibility page may apply for clerkships at HMS for the clinical elective months of October through March only. Students may request up to 3 clinical elective months.
3. A TOEFL score of 100 is required. The students can combine scores from several tests but the total score must be 100. A score of 99 is not accepted.
4. For foreign student applicants, a Step 1 score is recommended but not required. If a student is selecting a clinical elective that requires Step 1, the student may still select that elective. The Registrar's Office will ask that clinical elective director if they will accept a foreign student with no Step 1 score. Sometimes they will allow a foreign student to take the elective without the Step 1 score. A few electives require the Step 1 score for all students, and the foreign student won't be assigned to that elective. The Registrar cannot provide a list of the electives that require a Step 1 score from all students. If students decide to apply for an elective that requires a Step 1 course, they should have some alternate electives noted in their application in case they are not accepted for the elective that requires a Step 1 score.
5. The Basic Life Support - BLS certificate is required and must be valid through the end date of the last clinical elective the student is requesting. The ACLS is not accepted at the Harvard hospitals and cannot be used in place of the BLS certificate.
6. Proof of mask fit is required. Unfortunately, the Registrar's Office does not have any suggestions of where students can get a mask fit test. Neither the local Harvard hospitals nor HMS provide mask fit testing for visiting foreign students.
7. Students should receive their HMS elective assignments 10 weeks before the starting date of the elective.
8. Send to the HMS Office of Scholarly Engagement, ose@hms.harvard.edu:
    a. Names and emails of selected students from your school
    b. The requested elective month(s) of the students from your school
9. HMS tuition and fees are waived for students you select to participate in HMS clinical electives. We will prepare a personalized letter and email it to the students so that they can upload the

letter into VSLO. This will alert the HMS Registrar's Office that these students do not have to pay HMS tuition and fees.

10. Students will have to pay the VSLO fee (~$15) for each clinical elective they select. That fee cannot be waived.

11. If your student needs a visa to enter the US, they should apply for **B-1 visa** at a United States Embassy before entering the United States. The B-1 category, we have been told, is appropriate for medical clerkships, i.e. students pursuing a medical degree at a foreign institution coming to the United States to engage in a required unpaid clerkship. Harvard Medical School hosts many foreign exchange clerks every year who travel to the United States with B-1 visas. Sometimes these medical students are given a B-2 stamp when they enter the US, which is okay.

12. Please discourage students from entering the US on a tourist visa as the immigration officials at the US point of entry may not authorize a departure date that provides enough time for the student to complete their clinical rotation. Rumors that students share among themselves about how to enter the US are likely incorrect in these rapidly changing times.

13. If your student needs a letter from HMS to explain the visiting student program and their application status when they apply for their visa, please contact us at ose@hms.harvard.edu and explain your specific situation. The OSE can provide appropriate letters.

14. If you have any questions about grades that your student should receive at the end of their clinical rotations, please contact the HMS Registrar's Office at exclerks@hms.harvard.edu Please note that some clerkships may submit student grades two to three months after the end of the clerkship. If you need the grades quickly, contact the HMS Registrar's Office and provide them with the names of the students and the dates of their clinical rotations.

15. If students need malpractice insurance, you can search for policies from these groups:

    https://www.academicgroup.com/ampi-for-med-students
    https://www.nexus-insurance.net/foreign-medical-students-malpractice-insurance

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