



Pathway to U.S. Residency

The path from graduating medical school to Match day is a long journey. Here's a quick breakdown of the steps you can expect along the way.

December to April – PGY 1



GRADUATE FROM MEDICAL SCHOOL

After completing four-and-a-half years of classroom learning and a one-year internship, you will have earned your MBBS degree—congratulations!



USMLE STEP 1

USMLE Step 1 covers foundational concepts important to the practice of medicine.

Some MBBS students take their USMLE Step 1 during their time at school—usually after their second year. However, other students may hold off on USMLE Step 1 until after completion of their degrees when they have more time to dedicate to studying.

Prepare for USMLE Step 1 with a [Kaplan QBank Prep Course](#).

May to October – PGY 1



FIND A U.S. CLINICAL EXPERIENCE WITH AMO

U.S. clinical experience is necessary for IMGs hoping to match into a U.S. residency program. AMO opportunities helps IMGs find their U.S. clinical experience and aids students in securing letters of recommendation that they need for their Match applications. If you did not participate in clinical rotations during your school years, you may participate in an observership. Hands-on rotations are available if you have passed USMLE Step 1 and if they are in an outpatient setting.

[Explore clinical experiences](#) with AMO.

November to January – PGY 2



ECFMG CERTIFICATION AND APPROPRIATE VISAS

Once you have graduated and completed the first two steps of the USMLE process, as an IMG you will need to apply for the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates certification. This qualifies you to participate in the Match.

[Read more](#) on the certification process.

February to August – PGY 2



USMLE STEP 3

USMLE Step 3 is the final licensing exam for graduates hoping to practice medicine in the U.S. The exam assesses your preparedness for providing general medical care by testing you on general clinical situations that you might encounter as a physician. You can take Step 3 while you are in residency, but many IMGs often choose to take this Step beforehand to offset possible low scores on Step 1 and Step 2.

August to September – PGY 2



ERAS APPLICATION

The ERAS streamlines the Match application process for applicants, deans, LoR authors, and program directors. To apply for the Match, you must create an ERAS account. From letters of recommendation to CVs and more, there's a lot to upload. A consulting service, [such as IMG Match](#), offers support from previously matched IMGs to help make sure your application is ready for submission.

Once you have collected all materials necessary to apply, you can submit your ERAS application.

October to December – PGY 2 to PGY 3



INTERVIEW WITH PROGRAMS

After sorting through applications, programs will start reaching out to applicants for interviews. This is a chance for institutions to learn more about who you are. It is also an opportunity for you to ask your own questions about the program.

Check out [this list](#) of questions to expect during your interview.

February – PGY 3



RANK PROGRAM CHOICES

Following your interviews, you will have the chance to rank programs based on your preferences. However, keep in mind that they also rank you compared to other candidates. How you rank a program compared to how a program ranks you determines Match outcomes.

Be sure to review [these ranking tips](#) from the NRMP.

March – PGY 3



MATCH!

Congratulations! You've matched into a program and can begin planning your move!

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT AN ADVISOR!