

# International Visiting Student FAQS / Policies & Procedures

- **[When can an International Visiting Medical Student attend Baylor College of Medicine?](#)**

Currently, Baylor College of Medicine only accepts International Students January through June of each year.

- **[If my home institution is not affiliated with Visiting Student Learning Opportunities \(VSLO\), may I still apply to Baylor College of Medicine? Is there another way to apply to BCM as an International Student other than VSLO?](#)**

No, all International Students must apply to Baylor College of Medicine through [VSLO](#). If your institution is not affiliated with VSLO, you will not be able to apply to BCM until your home institution is a member of VSLO.

- **[If I am a United States citizen, but I am earning my medical degree from a foreign institution, do I need to take the TOEFL exam?](#)**

No, you do not need to take the TOEFL exam. In VSLO, under the pre-decision documents, please upload a photo of your U.S. passport instead of the TOEFL score report.

- **[May I still apply and attend Baylor College of Medicine with a TOEFL score lower than 100?](#)**

No, the TOEFL score must be a minimum of 100. Lower scores will not be accepted.

- **[If I am an International Student who attends an English speaking or predominantly English-based medical program, do I need to take the TOEFL exam?](#)**

Yes, you are required to take the TOEFL exam if you are an International Student who does not have a U.S. passport. You must upload the score report to your VSLO application; this is a requirement to obtain your visa.

- **[Can I modify Baylor College of Medicine's calendar?](#)**

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No, we do not make accommodations to our elective rotation dates. Our [Academic Calendar](#) is listed on our website so that you can schedule and plan accordingly. All visiting students are required to attend Baylor's Office of the Registrar Orientation on the first day of the elective rotation as well as the departmental orientation. Visiting Students are expected to follow our Absence & Attendance policy, available [here](#).

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- **[Can the department reserve a space for me?](#)**

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No. All applications must be reviewed by the Senior Coordinator and elective department. We cannot override this policy in fairness to applicants, departments, coordinators, and faculty. We ask that our visiting students do not contact elective departments about availability for electives. All correspondence must be made through the Office of the Registrar.

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- **[When are the application deadlines?](#)**

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Applications must be submitted in VSLO by the international student no later than 8 weeks before the elective month begins. Please refer to the [Academic Calendar](#) to review our rotation dates.

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- **[Will BCM Issue my F-1 Visa?](#)**

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All international visiting students without a U.S. passport must rotate with our program on an F-1 Visa, no exceptions. BCM will assist accepted applicants in obtaining an F-1 visa if one is not already issued. Student F-1 visa appointment wait times have increased. If accepted to an away rotation, you are required to have your visa paperwork completed/approved in advance of traveling for the away rotation. Please consult the visa appointment wait time site below to review projected wait times for your area and do not select elective months that will not allow time for your visa process to be completed. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ROTATIONS ON A B-1 VISA.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html>

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- **[Is the \\$1,000 VSLO application fee refundable?](#)**

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No, this is a non-refundable application fee. An application does not guarantee that a space will be available in the elective at the time of applying. BCM reviews applications on a holistic basis, not first-come, first-serve.

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- **Does Baylor College of Medicine charge tuition to International Visiting Medical Students?**

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Yes, International Students applying to Baylor College of Medicine electives are required to pay the \$2,300 non-refundable tuition fee per elective experience (4 weeks). This tuition fee must be paid within 7 days upon receiving an offer through VSLO. Additional fees include a \$25 Occupational Health Program Fee and \$12 Malpractice Insurance Coverage Fee.

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- **Does Baylor College of Medicine provide housing for Visiting Medical Students?**

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No, all Visiting Medical Students are responsible for securing housing while attending electives at Baylor College of Medicine.

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- **Is my Step 1 Score Report required?**

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Step scores may be a requirement listed for specific rotations in VSLO. If you are an international student applying for an elective that lists a Step score as a requirement, but your school does not participate in Step Exams, please upload a word document stating this information.

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- **Is malpractice insurance coverage required for International Visiting Medical Students?**

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Yes, malpractice insurance must be purchased through Baylor College of Medicine. This \$12 fee must be paid when an offer is accepted in VSLO.

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- **Does Baylor require proof of COVID vaccinations?**

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No, BCM will not ask for proof of COVID vaccinations. Please note that the rotation hospital site policies will override any Baylor policies regarding COVID vaccination requirements. For example, the hospital site will have the right to cancel the student rotation, should the student not meet their COVID vaccination requirements.

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- **Additional OHP Requirements**

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BCM requires a Tdap vaccine (rather than a Td) within the last 10 years. Please ensure that your record reflects that your recent tetanus booster is a Tdap.

Additionally, BCM requires a blood test for TB screening. A QFT is preferred. Please ensure that you provide blood test (rather than skin test) results. The test should not expire prior to or during your rotation. That is, it needs to be completed within 12 months prior to the end of your proposed rotation.

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