Foreign Physicians

J–1 Scholars are limited to observation, consultation, teaching or research. They are allowed no element of patient contact or treatment in their program. However, a J-1 scholar may conduct incidental patient contact only if he/she is a foreign medical graduate and the incidental patient contact is part of the J-1 scholar’s program of observation, consultation, teaching, or research with the U of M.

- The limited patient contact must be “incidental” to the programs objectives.
- Patient contact MUST NOT be connected to any clinical program (diagnosis and/or treatment).
- There must be NO element of patient care involved in the program and/or NO hands-on assistance during any clinical procedure.

In the ISSS application to invite a J-1 Professor, Research Scholar or Short-term Scholar, if you indicated that the J-1 applicant is a certified physician in his/her home country and that she or he will have Non-clinical Incidental Patient Contact, you must request a "non-clinical, incidental patient contact" letter from the Medical School’s Office of Faculty Affairs. Please send the application and your request in the form of a letter to the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs (Dr. Gregory Bielman). Your request should be sent via email (beilman@umn.edu) and include the following information:

1. Dates of visit
2. Purpose of visit
3. Name and title of Advisor - must have a full-time appointment in the Medical School
4. Must state that any patient contact will be incidental
5. Include the J–1 Scholar’s CV
6. The request must come directly from the Department Chair

This letter (or a copy of it) should accompany the application your department submits to ISSS to request a DS-2019 for the prospective J-1 scholar. Your department should then send an original version of this letter along with the original DS-2019 document processed through ISSS to the prospective scholar.

(Please note: This letter is not required for medical students who are not yet M.D.s as they are ineligible for incidental patient contact.)