

Eligibility Requirements for the NIH Clinical Electives Program

In order to be eligible to apply for a clinical elective at the NIH, **you must meet the following requirements:**

1. You must be a U.S. citizen, resident alien, or a foreign citizen entering the U.S. on a B1 visa.
2. You must be in good standing in your medical or dental school.
3. You must enter all of your medical school grades as Pass/Fail or by a letter grade.
4. You must have your school's approval to participate and one of the reference letters submitted in your application must be from your Dean of Student Affairs (or equivalent) and state the Dean's title and mailing address.
5. If you are currently enrolled in or attending a school that is **not** 1) an LCME-accredited medical school in the United States or Canada, or 2) an accredited school of osteopathic medicine in the United States, or 3) a CODA/ADA-accredited dental school in the United States, then you **must** provide evidence of proficiency in communication skills either in the form of a TOEFL score or a documented passing grade on the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills Exam. For the TOEFL examination, the minimally acceptable scores are as follows:
 - a) minimum total score of 560 on the paper-based test
 - b) minimum total score of 220 on the computer-based test
 - c) minimum total score of 86 on the iBT with a minimal score of 26 on the speaking subsection.
6. You must have completed all of your core courses in surgery, internal medicine, ob-gyn, pediatrics, and psychiatry prior to review of your application. You must provide written documentation of a negative Mantoux test (intermediate strength PPD) within three months prior to your arrival at the NIH or, for individuals with a positive Mantoux test, a chest X-ray report within the past 12 months.
7. You must provide written documentation of a diphtheria/tetanus booster within the past 10 years.
8. You must provide written documentation of recent immunization with Rubeola vaccine.
9. You must provide written documentation of recent immunization with Varicella vaccine.
10. You are strongly encouraged to have begun or completed your Hepatitis B vaccine.

In addition, **your school must provide the following:**

1. Professional liability insurance coverage of \$1,000,000 individual/\$3,000,000 in the aggregate, in U.S. dollars) that would cover you on your elective in the U.S. By signing the NIH/School agreement, the school confirms they provide this coverage. If you have met all other requirements listed above, you can purchase sufficient professional liability coverage if your school cannot provide it.

2. Personal health coverage for you during your elective at the NIH. By signing the NIH/School agreement, the school confirms they provide this coverage. If you have met all other requirements listed above, you can purchase sufficient personal health coverage if your school cannot provide it.

Note: Applicants who cannot meet all of the above eligibility requirements will not be considered for an NIH Clinical Elective. Medical students from U.S. and Canadian LCME schools, Dental students from CODA/ADA-accredited schools, and Osteopathic students from AOA schools will be given priority consideration for electives. Graduates of medical, dental, or osteopathic schools are ineligible to apply.