

# DO FORWARD: INTERNATIONAL PATHWAYS TO US OSTEOPATHIC PRACTICE



## PANELISTS:



Attorney Michael Wooley  
Partner, Varnum LLP



Mr. Ismail Adawe  
MSU-OISS

# PANELISTS BIO AND CONTACT

---

Mr. Ismail Adawe is an Assistant Director at OISS. He has been in the field of International Education for more than a decade. Ismail's responsibilities at OISS include overseeing the F-visa team, interpreting regulations, university compliance with U.S. Department of Homeland Security regulations. Ismail also serves as the Principal Designated School Official (PDSO) for MSU

Ismail earned his undergraduate degree in International Business and Management. He earned a Master of Science in International Administration from Central Michigan University. Ismail joined MSU in 2008. Prior to joining OISS, Ismail worked with the International Neurologic and Psychiatric Epidemiology Program (INPEP) and the Institute of International Health (IIH) at Michigan State University.

Contact: [Adawe@msu.edu](mailto:Adawe@msu.edu)

Attorney Michael E. Wooley is a partner and member of Varnum LLP's immigration practice team, where he focuses on non-immigrant and immigrant business visas, including PERM filings and National Interest Waivers. He serves numerous Michigan-based companies and organizations across the U.S.

Mike excels in defending USDOL PERM audits and interfacing with immigration-related federal agencies. He advises clients in various industries, including mining, financial services and higher education, with a strong emphasis in health care. Having served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador, Mike is fluent in Spanish, both oral and written. He frequently delivers talks on immigration topics to diverse professional organizations and enjoys training clients' human resources teams.

Mike received his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School and his undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University.

Contact: [mewooley@varnumlaw.com](mailto:mewooley@varnumlaw.com)

# MSUCOM MATCH SUMMARY

**MSUCOM has had 100% of its international students match into residency programs.**

---

## The specialties include:

- Anesthesiology
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Otolaryngology
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Emergency Medicine
- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Psychiatry
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Pediatrics
- General Surgery
- Obstetrics-Gynecology
- Dermatology

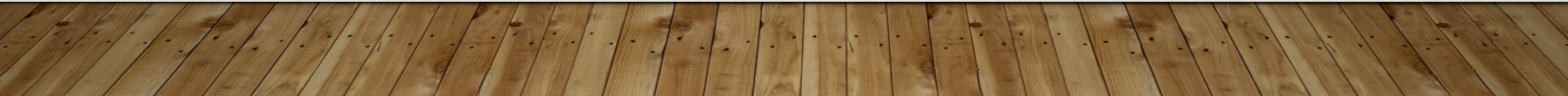
MSUCOM Resources

[International U.S. Med Grad Mentors](#)

# HOW DO I PREPARE FOR MY RESIDENCY APPLICATION AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

PREPARING FOR YOUR MEDICAL RESIDENCY APPLICATION AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INVOLVES A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO CRAFT A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION THAT ALIGNS WITH YOUR CHOSEN SPECIALTY, SIMILAR TO DOMESTIC STUDENTS. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTAND THE VISA OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO YOU (J-1, H-1B, F1OPT) AND THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE VISAS DURING AND AFTER YOUR RESIDENCY.

---



# ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC THINGS I NEED TO DO THAT A DOMESTIC STUDENT DOESN'T NEED TO DO?

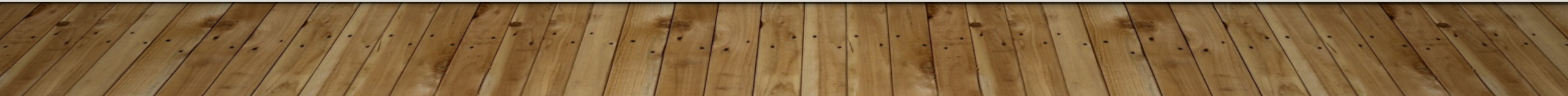
---

International medical students in the U.S. should focus on identifying residency programs that offer visa assistance. This information can typically be found on program websites. You can use program websites to find this information and reach out to the program coordinator for clarification when needed. The [Residency Explorer](#) tool, which provides detailed information about residency programs, including their support for J-1 or H-1B visas, is also a great tool but may not be as up-to-date as program websites.. Residency Explorer features a search function that helps you locate programs by specialty and geographic location.

## **DO I NEED TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE THAN MY DOMESTIC PEERS TO ENSURE A RESIDENCY SPOT?**

---

As an international student, your choices of residency programs may be more limited, as you will be able to apply only to those programs that provide the necessary visa support but prior graduates have found ample programs to apply to. Approaching your residency application strategically will increase your chances of a successful match.



# **HOW LIMITED ARE OUR OPTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR RESIDENCY PROGRAMS?**

---

The availability of residency programs that support visas can vary significantly. Larger specialties, such as Internal Medicine (IM) and Family Medicine (FM), typically offer more positions since there are more residency programs in these fields. In contrast, smaller specialties, such as thoracic surgery and radiation oncology, tend to have fewer opportunities.

## **ARE CERTAIN SPECIALTIES MORE OUT OF REACH AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?**

---

As mentioned above, smaller specialties may present more challenges due to a limited number of residency programs. For instance, there are 36 thoracic surgery programs in the U.S., but only 12 of these programs sponsor H-1B or J-1 visas.

# WHAT STEPS CAN I TAKE NOW?

---

- Understand the visa options available to you
- Familiarize yourself with residency research tools and looking over program websites
- Be organized and proactive.
- Engage in specialty exploration as needed
- Collaborate with your career advisor who can help you create a strategy that fits your goals!

# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

---

To help us better support you in the future, please scan the QR-Code and complete the questions that follow.

