



Puget Sound Welcome Back Center at Highline College

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The Welcome Back Initiative

- San Francisco Welcome Back Center opened in 2001
- The mission to connect the un-tapped pool of immigrant health professionals residing in California with the need for a health workforce that better reflected the linguistic and cultural diversity of the state
- Nine centers in the U.S.

PSWBC

- Opened in 2008 served 60 healthcare professionals
- Currently serving over 1,400 healthcare professionals
- 772 IENs (internationally educated nurses)
- 278 IMGs (international medical graduates)
 - 12 completed residency, 2 in WA State
 - 2 started residency in July 2019
 - 2 received fellowships in 2019
- PSWB began working with all foreign trained professionals in 2017

PSWBC Resources

- Options and process for the Match
- Employment assistance
 - Resume writing
 - Job search
 - Interviewing skills
- Assistance with academic applications
- DocTalk
- Blue Canoe

PSWBC and IMGs

The Definition of an IMG

The Definition of an IMG (FMG)

“The location of the medical school, not the citizenship of the physician, determines whether the graduate is an IMG”*

- **U.S. IMG:** U.S. citizen who completed medical school outside of the U.S.
- **Non-U.S. IMG:** No U.S. citizenship, completed medical school outside the U.S.
 - Immigrant, refugee, asylum (permanent residency in the U.S.)
 - Exchange Visitor Program Physicians J1 (temporary education visa)
 - H-1B visa (temporary employment visa with option for permanent residency)

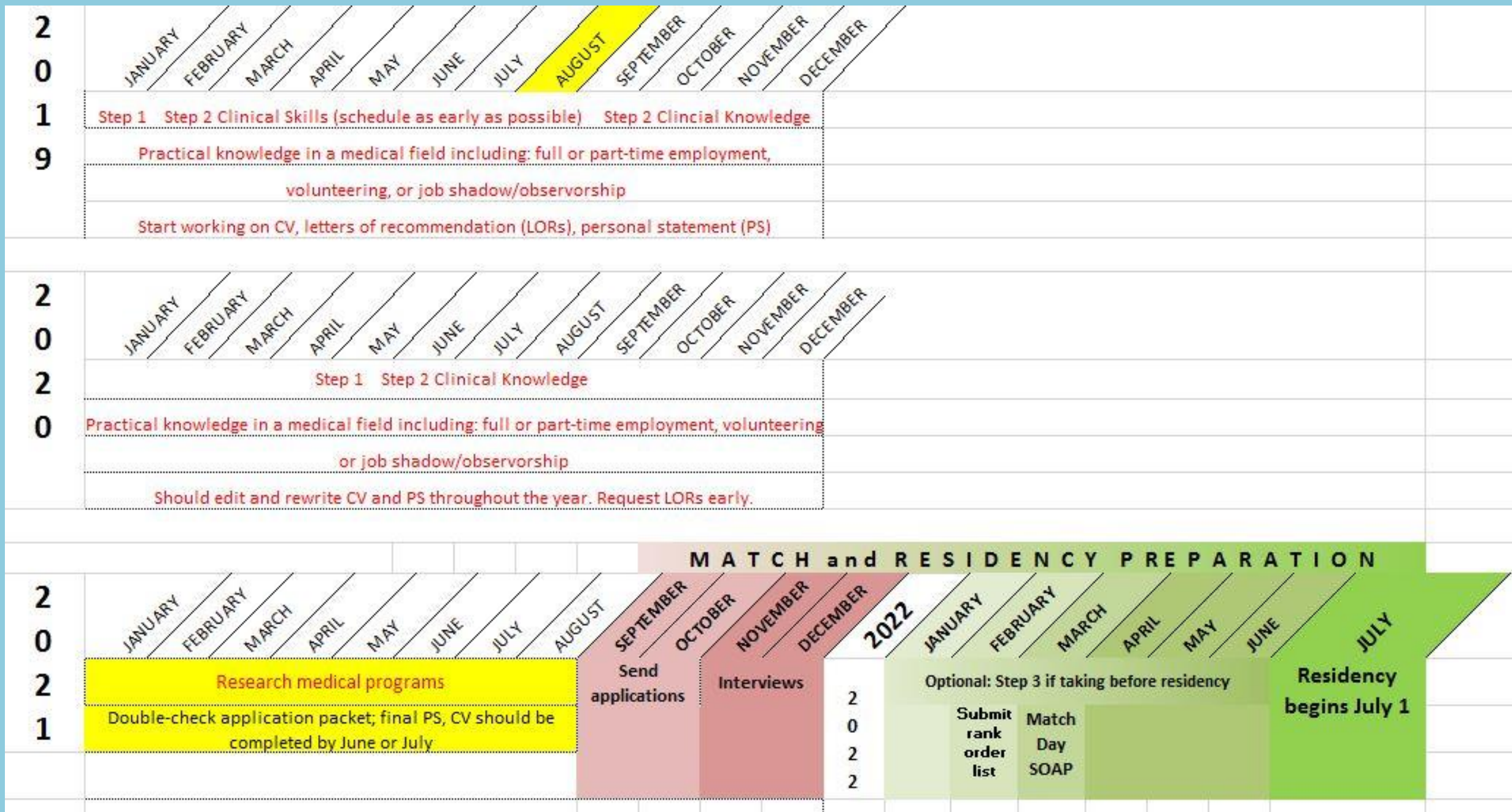
*Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) website

PSWBC and IMGs

The Definition of an IMG (FMG)

The Process

- English proficiency
- Computer literacy
- Research programs
- Time and commitment
- Alternative employment



PSWBC and IMGs

The Definition of an IMG (FMG)

The Process

The Barriers

The Barriers

- Years away from medical school
- Clinical experience in the United States
- Place bound in Washington State
- Cost of application

The Barriers, Cost

- ECFMG application \$135.0
- translation \$250.00
- USMLE
 - Step 1 \$940.00
 - Step 2 CK \$940.00
 - Step 2 CS \$1,580.00 (excluding airfare, lodging, meals)
 - Step 3 \$875.00
- Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPIC) \$125.00
- Verification of Credentials \$90.00 per credential
- Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) token \$130.00
- **Total cost of initial application \$5,065.00**

The Barriers, Cost

ERAS residency application fees

Up to 10	\$99
11 – 20	\$15 each
21 – 30	\$19 each
31 or more	\$26 each

\$5,065 ECFMG application cost for IMG

\$2,259 for 100 ERAS applications

\$7324.00

In Their Own Words

- 278 IMGs (international medical graduates)
 - 12 completed residency, 2 in WA State
 - 2 started residency in July 2019
 - 2 received fellowships in 2019

Surveyed 223 IMG participants, received 30 responses

In Their Own Words

- 7 received residency interviews
- 12 are working in healthcare field (Nursing Assistant, Research Associate, Medical Case Manager)
- 4 unemployed
- 4 returned to school – RN, MPH, Respiratory Therapy
- 2 are in IT

93% said they are still interested in pursuing a U.S. medical license

In Their Own Words

“More practical medical equivalence”

“I am studying for step 1 and I am happy to hear that we may apply for a residency in WA”

“There are so many barriers to getting medical license to practice. Finally I decided to look for an alternative way to getting patients feel better, having them feel cared for with satisfactory outcome.”

“Please give us the opportunity to prove ourselves”

In Their Own Words

“Give some value to their medical degree”

“The longer from graduation date the harder to even be able to apply to programs”

“It is really hard to find a full time job before USMLE”

“To come up with bridge program help IMG to transition to work close to their experience and knowledge”

Questions?