



Visiting Student Elective Program Yale School of Medicine United States Visa Information

United States Citizenship and Immigration Service regulations define "elective clerkships" as practical experience and instruction, in the various disciplines of medicine, under the supervision and direction of faculty physicians. The regulations permit students from international medical schools to take those clerkships at American medical schools, as an approved part of their medical education, under B-1 Visitor For Business status, per instruction in the Foreign Affairs Manual. A special student visa is not necessary.

Well in advance of the date of your planned departure, you should apply for a B-1 visa at an American Embassy or Consulate. Be prepared to show your notice of acceptance from Yale, this memo and proof that you have access to sufficient funds to support yourself while in the United States. Make sure to request B-1 status upon your entry to the US using this letter and your letter of acceptance. The border official should issue you an I-94 card noting B-1 status and a date by which you must depart the US. Canadians are exempt from the visa requirements but will need to present a valid passport, and should be granted B-1 status on the I-94 entry card. Please make sure to carefully check the notation on your I-94 card to ensure that it notes B1 before leaving the immigration interview area. In some cases the inspecting official may enter an incorrect notation. It is important to get this corrected before officially entering the US.

If you are from a visa waiver country¹, you have the option of requesting entry into the U.S. with WB status (Tourist for Business) at your point of entry into the United States. Prior to your arrival you will need to go online for a prescreening by the United States Department of Homeland Security through ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/. Applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel, however it is recommended to submit no less than 72 hours prior to your departure. In most cases you will receive a response within seconds. You will not be granted entry under the visa waiver program without having completed your ESTA registration. At your point of entry to the United States you will present your print out confirming ESTA screening, your notice of acceptance and proof of funding. The border official will issue you an I-94 card noting WB status. You do not need to apply for a visa at the US consulate. You must have a machine-readable passport. Please make sure to carefully check the notation on your I-94 card to ensure that it notes WB before leaving the immigration interview area. In some cases the inspecting official may enter an incorrect notation. It is important to get this corrected before officially entering the US. After January 12th 2009, issuance of I-94 cards for WB visitors will be phased out.

It is important to clearly explain the amount of time you need in the US, as it is at the discretion of the border official to grant from one up to six months in the B-1 category or up to 90 days in the WB category, as that official deems suitable for your visit.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to monica.weeks@yale.edu. at the Office of International Students and Scholars at Yale.

¹ WB, Visitor for Business, and WT, Visitor for Pleasure, are designations under the visa waiver program that is currently available only to citizens of Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay.