

Guidelines for International Rotations in Diagnostic Radiology Review Committee for Radiology

The Review Committee has defined “resident electives” as experiences intended to enrich the residents' education relevant to their plans for future practice and/or other interests. The Committee feels that international *elective* rotations are permissible in the **PGY-5 (R-4)** year, but emphasizes that it is not acceptable for any *required* residency education to be completed outside the United States. The Review Committee does not recommend international elective rotations during the PGY-2-4 (R-1-3) years, when the educational focus should be on formal instruction and appropriate clinical rotations in all of the core areas in radiology, leading up to the American Board of Radiology (ABR) or American Osteopathic Board of Radiology (AOBR) Core Examination.

International clinical and/or research electives for PGY-5 (R-4) residents are standardized elective rotation experiences developed by the program.

A program director who wishes to develop an international elective should:

- Consult with the institution's Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) and designated institutional official (DIO) to ensure that there is support for such an experience. It may also be advisable to consult the institution's legal department to discuss and clarify liability and insurance issues.
- Delineate the goals and objectives for the rotation to ensure clarity regarding the educational expectations for this experience and the methods by which the resident(s) will be evaluated.
- Develop a formal program letter of agreement (PLA) between the program director and the site director at the international site. The letter of agreement should:
 - Identify the faculty member(s) who will assume both educational and supervisory responsibilities for the resident(s). The resident(s) must be supervised on-site by at least one qualified physician for the duration of the elective rotation. This individual must be ABR- or AOBR-certified or have significant documented experience and education, such that it is acceptable to both the home institution and the Review Committee. The program should be able to justify to the Review Committee that the supervising physician has adequate qualifications to teach the residents at a distant site (note: the site director may also serve as the supervising physician faculty member).
 - Specify the faculty member(s)' responsibilities for teaching, supervision, and formal evaluation process of the resident(s).
 - Specify the duration and content of the educational experience.
 - State the policies and procedures that will govern resident education during the assignment.
 - Give evidence that there is local authority approval in the country where the international elective rotation will be conducted.

- Submit a request for review and approval of the international rotation by providing a written description of the rotation, to include:
 - Program name and 10-digit number
 - Name, location, and dates of the international site experience
 - Assurance of the quality of the experience
 - Assurance of appropriate supervision, including identifying the supervising faculty member(s)
 - Structured learning activities
 - Goals and objectives
 - Plan for resident performance assessment and resident assessment of experience
 - Plan for how the resident(s) and program will measure outcomes relative to the international rotation experience

- Attach a letter of support from the DIO and the signed PLA.

The program director is accountable for the educational value and safety of the residents' experience.

Programs should not facilitate or approve international elective rotations to countries or areas in countries that have US State Department travel warnings at the time of Review Committee notification. It is the responsibility of the program to ensure that a US State Department travel warning is not in effect for the site at the time of the rotation.