

Guidelines for International Rotations in Diagnostic and Interventional 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 Review Committee feels that international **elective** rotations are permissible in the **final** year of the program but emphasizes that is not acceptable for any *required* residency education to be completed outside the United States. The Review Committee does not recommend international elective rotations before the final year, when the educational focus should be on formal instruction and appropriate clinical rotations in all of the core areas in the specialty, leading up to the American Board of Radiology (ABR) or American Osteopathic Board of Radiology (AOBR) Core Examinations.

International clinical and/or research electives for the final year may be brief out-of-country rotations tailored for an individual resident(s) or may be standardized elective rotation experiences developed by the program.

A program director who wishes to develop an international elective program or facilitate a resident’s international elective rotation should:

- Consult with the institution's Graduate Medical Education Committee and designated institutional official (DIO) to ensure there is support for such an experience. The institution's legal department may also need to be consulted so issues of liability and insurance are discussed and clarified.
- 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 onsite 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 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 resident(s) 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 the process for formal evaluation 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.

- Submit a request for review and approval to the Review Committee by providing a written description of the rotation, including:
 - Program name and number
 - Name and PGY level of the resident(s)
 - Name, location, and dates of the international site experience
 - Assurance of the quality of the experience
 - Assurance of appropriate supervision and identification of the supervising faculty member(s)
 - Structured learning activities
 - Goals and objectives
 - Plan for resident performance assessment and resident assessment of the 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. Program directors are accountable for the educational value and safety of the resident(s)' experience.

Programs should take the necessary steps to investigate the safety and stability of the international site/location to ensure the overall safety of the residents.