# Guidelines for International Rotations in Diagnostic or Interventional Radiology
## Review Committee for Radiology

The Review Committee for Radiology has defined "resident electives" as those experiences that are 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 final year of the program, but emphasizes that it is not acceptable for any *required* education to be completed outside the United States. The Review Committee does not recommend international elective rotations during the first two PGY years, when the educational focus should be on formal instruction and appropriate clinical rotations in the core areas of the specialty.

International clinical and/or research electives for eligible residents are standardized elective rotation experiences developed by the program.

A program director who wishes to proceed with developing an international elective rotation should:

- Consult with the Sponsoring Institution's Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) and designated institutional official (DIO) to ensure that there is support for such an experience. The institution's legal department may also need to be consulted so that 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 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 have American Board of Radiology or American Osteopathic Board of Radiology certification or have significant experience and education documented, 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 resident(s) at a distant site. (Note: The site director may also serve as the supervising physician faculty member.)
  - Specify the faculty member responsibilities for teaching, supervision, and 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.
  - Give evidence that there is local authority approval in the country where the international elective rotation will be conducted.

- Submit a request to the Review Committee 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 and identification of 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 program letter of agreement

Program directors are 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 beyond Level 1 at the time of Review Committee notification. It is the responsibility of the applying program to ensure that a US State Department travel warning is not in effect for the site at the time of the rotation.