The education of physicians in the United States is lengthy and involves undergraduate education, medical school and graduate medical education. For International Students, the process can be even a little more difficult. But, excellent students are always in demand.

**Medical Schools in the United States: Public vs. Private**
The public medical schools in the United States are required by law to enroll a high percentage of their incoming classes as residents of that state since they are the families who support that institution with their tax dollars. Therefore, the few seats that are available to non-state residents are very competitive. The private schools, such as Baylor in Texas, are not bound by those same restrictions, and, so, have more seats available to non-state residents, including International Students. Some schools may require International Students to pay more of their tuition in advance.

**Medical Schools in Mexico**
There are several medical schools in Mexico. There is one in Juarez, the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez. You can find out more information about it at [http://www.uacj.mx/](http://www.uacj.mx/). There is also the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara which has an extensive residency match program with universities in the United States. Their website is [www.usa.mx/medicine](http://www.usa.mx/medicine).

**Medical Schools OffShore**
There are advantages and disadvantages to attending offshore medical schools. It is a complex issue and consideration should be accompanied by much research on your part. The issues of residency and USMLE preparation are most important. Some websites that have more information are:
- [http://zoology.muohio.edu/premed/foreign.html](http://zoology.muohio.edu/premed/foreign.html)
- [http://www.imgi.net/usstudandfor.html](http://www.imgi.net/usstudandfor.html)

It is not impossible to attend medical school in the U.S. as an international student. You must, however, be an excellent student with a strong GPA and MCAT score as well as have extensive community service, a powerful personal statement, and very supportive references. Careful planning from early in your college career and thorough research will go a long way toward improving your chances of a successful application. Get specific information from the schools in which you are interested and start cultivating a relationship with them early.

For more information, contact:

Mary C. D. Wells, M.A.
Director, Medical Professions Institute
Classroom Building, C001 LL W
The University of Texas at El Paso
El Paso, TX 79968
(915) 747-6230
Fax: (915) 747-6412
mdwells2@utep.edu