

International Rotation FAQs

Review Committee for Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

Current Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Program Requirements Applicable to International Rotations

4.11.n. International Rotations

International rotations must be approved by the program director. (Core)

4.11.n.1. The total time spent in international rotations should be no more than one month over the five-year program. (Detail)

4.11.n.2. All institutional policies and procedures that govern the program at the sponsoring institution must continue to be in effect for residents during an international rotation. (Core)

4.11.n.3. Surgical procedures completed during an international rotation must not be counted toward meeting the required minima of procedures. (Core)

FAQs Regarding International Rotations in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, Neurotology, and Pediatric Otolaryngology

Q1: Can a resident/fellow participate in an international rotation?

A1: Yes, international rotations are permitted but adherence with the following is required:

- The rotation must be approved by the program director and by the Review Committee as is done for any other rotation site for a residency or fellowship program.
- Rotation approval must be signed by the program director and the Sponsoring Institution's designated institutional official, as well as a signed Program Letter of Agreement.
- The rotation must have an on-site designated ACGME-approved (i.e., certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery) faculty member as site director and supervisor.
- The rotation must be elective (i.e., optional).
- The description of the rotation must include the educational rationale, goals, and objectives.
- All institutional policies and procedures that govern the program at the Sponsoring Institution must continue to be in effect during international rotations.

Q2: Can surgical cases be counted during an international rotation?

A2: No.

Q3: Do all of the Common Program Requirements for residents/fellows (including clinical and educational work hours) apply on an international rotation?

A3: Yes.

Q4: Can vacation time be used for an international rotation?

A4: No, as vacation activities are not part of a resident's education and therefore are outside the purview of the Review Committee. Programs are advised to ask their Sponsoring Institution for guidance. An approved international rotation serves as an elective rotation as part of the specialty and/or subspecialty Program Requirements.

Q5: Will an international rotation extend the residency or fellowship timeline for graduation?

A5: Program directors are responsible for reviewing the resident's/fellow's schedule to ensure that participation in the international rotation will not require an extension of their educational program. If circumstances arise necessitating an extension, contact Review Committee staff members contact information for whom can be found on the [Overview](#) page of the Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery section of the ACGME website.

Q6: Does the applicable specialty/subspecialty board need to be notified?

A6: No, boards do not need to be notified unless the rotation does not meet the approved Review Committee requirements or if the resident/fellow will have leaves of absence/vacation in excess of six weeks for the academic year.

Q7: For otolaryngology – head and neck surgery programs can the designated research time (program requirement 4.11.j.) be used for an international rotation?

A7: No, unless the rotation is considered research, in which case that the rotation would fall under section 4.11.j.2. of the Program Requirements: "The primary focus of this experience must be research and not clinical service or education. (Core)"