

Learner News Week of November 9, 2020

Current state of discussions on 2021 applicant requirements

Student representatives from CFMS and FMEQ have participated in creating the recommendations of the AFMC Resident Matching Committee (ARMC) subcommittee on File Review and Applications. Recommendations approved by the AFMC Board of Directors include:

LETTERS

a. Letters of Reference

- i) A structured Letter of Reference will be submitted by each referee. This does NOT apply to the 2021 R1 Match. The Family Medicine Structured Reference Form that was developed by the FM program directors will NOT apply to the 2021 R1 Match. A Structured Letter of Reference for all specialties will be considered for the 2022 R1 Match, and there are ongoing discussions about this at the ARMC.
- ii) A Letter of Reference from the institution to where the applicant is applying must not be a criterion for file review and ultimately, for file ranking.
- iii) There will be no requirement for a Letter of Reference from the discipline to which the applicant is applying.
- iv) Each program may request a maximum of three (3) Letters of Reference from an applicant. If approved, this will require a change to policy and process to ensure that compliance is enforceable.

b. Letter of Support (Lettre d'appui)

- i) The Letter of Support is used exclusively by the Quebec French Language Faculties of Medicine and is primarily used in lieu of a letter of reference when applying to these Faculty's residency programs.
- ii) Given that the Letter of Support is a standardized form as it exists presently and enjoys support from all stakeholder groups from these Faculties, no change is suggested to the content or structure of the Letter of Support.
- iii) A Letter of Support from the institution to where the applicant is applying must not be a criterion for file review and ultimately, file ranking.
- iv) There will be no requirement for a Letter of Support from the discipline to which the applicant is applying.
- v) Each program may request a maximum of three (3) Letters of Support from an applicant. If approved, this will require a change to policy and process to ensure that compliance is enforceable.

c. Personal Letter

- i) Each program should clearly provide on their website:
 - Direction to applicants regarding content they are looking for in the personal letter, including the questions/topics they would like addressed.

- A maximum word count.

ELECTIVES

- a. Any elective experience approved by the applicant's UGME program may be included as part of the applicant's R1 CaRMS application (MSPR, Letter of Reference / Letter of Support, personal letter, CV, transcript, etc.).
- b. Electives / clinical experiences that are not approved by the applicant's UGME program are not to be included anywhere in the applicant's R1 CaRMS application.

Read the full recommendations here.

Current state of discussions on virtual interviews

The Virtual Interview and Program Recruitment Subcommittee of the ARMC has been working to develop interactive virtual interview handbooks for both programs and applicants. The subcommittee will use all available resources to create comprehensive handbooks that will help guide preparation for interviews.

Match 2021 Resources

- The Canadian Residency Virtual Program Promotion Guide was released on September 15th 2020. https://afmc.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-Canadian-Residency-Virtual-Promotion-Guide_en.pdf
- The National Web calendar of events is a centralized calendar of events that lets learners learn more about residency programs across the country. <http://www.afmc.ca/en/learners/r1-match>
- A web tool specifically for program promotion will be launched later in November.

Current state of discussions on 2022 visiting electives

There are no visiting electives for the Class of 2022 at this time. The schools are eager to resume visiting electives, however no decision around recommendations for the resumption of visiting electives has been made at this time. This topic will continue to be discussed by the AFMC Committee on Undergraduate Education.

2022 Resident (R-1) Match

The AFMC Board has made the following decisions regarding the 2022 Resident (R-1) Match:

- Interviews will continue to be in a virtual format for all candidates.
- The match timeline will be:
 - Application MSPR submission/University transcript: begins January 7, 2022
 - The File Review Period: January 31 to February 27, 2022
 - The Virtual Interview Period: February 28 to March 20, 2022
 - Match Day First Iteration: April 12, 2022
 - Match Day Second Iteration: May 12, 2022