

AFMC Update for Students

Week of May 11th

All the change and uncertainty are very stressful. The education leaders and student leaders across the country are working together to ensure the best possible education experience for students. Below you will find updates on a number of issues:

2021 CaRMS R1 Match

The AFMC Board has made the following decisions regarding the [2021 R-1 Match](#):

The match timeline will be:

- The Last Day of the Application Period: February 7, 2021
- The File Review Period: February 8 to March 5, 2021
- The Virtual Interview Period: March 8 to March 28, 2021
- The Second Iteration Match Day being no later than: May 18, 2021.

Decisions made to arrive at these dates are based on the best information available at this time. As with everything related to the COVID19 pandemic, these are not set in stone, and will be re-evaluated if necessary as the situation evolves.

The postgraduate education community is looking at best practices for application and what will be required in the context of the current situation. There have been no decisions made at this time.

The AFMC Board of Directors [has determined](#) that for the 2021 R1 Match, interviews will be in a virtual format including those for local candidates.

The virtual interview period is booked for a 3-week block in order to increase flexibility. A compressed interview period was not feasible due to administrative issues as well as due to where March break falls in many provinces.

Details around the interview process will be worked out over the next weeks- months and will be communicated widely. Specifically, flexibility in scheduling interviews, whether students will be on rotations during the interview period as well as the ability to explore programs virtually will all be addressed.

The Board determination for the CaRMS match is only for the 2021 match year. The process will be re-evaluated following this, and is not considered a permanent change.

Visiting electives

Issues around visiting electives are being actively discussed by the Undergraduate Deans. The goal is to offer visiting electives when and where possible and the schools are working toward this goal. There will be no visiting electives until September at the earliest.

Elective opportunities will depend a great deal on local, provincial as well as national public health directives, time available and program capacity.

Answers to questions related to the booking of visiting electives can be found at:

<https://www.afmcstudentportal.ca/covid-19>

Return to clerkship

A return to clerkship date has been proposed for most schools. This date is not set in stone, and may have to change if the burden of COVID 19 illness changes in any particular jurisdiction. Decisions on return dates are heavily guided by factors at individual schools and by local restrictions. Although schools may return at different times, the education leadership is well aware of the need to have as much equity nationally as possible in the educational and career exploration opportunities for students.

Schools are busy organizing core clerkships schedules for 2021. Decisions around the length of core clerkships will reside with the curriculum committees at each school.

There is no pan- Canadian plan for preparing students to return to clinical rotations. Each school is addressing their own students' needs.

It is highly probable that learners will participate in virtual patient care. The logistics of how this will happen in terms of training for the learners and the faculty preceptors as well as appropriate assessment strategies will be considered.

MCCQEI Examinations

The PG Deans are aware that some students will not be able to complete this examination prior to starting residency. Students will be supported to take the exam even after the start of residency.

ACLS

The PG Deans are aware that some students will not have had the opportunity to complete the ACLS course prior to starting residency. Arrangements will be made by individual schools and programs to facilitate this when it becomes available.

Transitions into residency

The PG Deans are aware that the transition into residency will bring many challenges, this year more so than in past years. Work is actively underway to identify these challenges and either identify or develop mitigating strategies.