

AFMC Update for Students

Week of June 15

COVID-19 continues to create uncertainty in pre-clinical and clinical realms and “change” seems to be the new norm. Medical educators and student leaders across the country are working together to ensure timely communication and optimal education experience for students given the current circumstances. Below you will find updates on a number of issues:

Visiting Electives for the Class of 2021

At the AFMC Board meeting June 16, 2020, the Board approved that there will be no **visiting** electives for the Class of 2021 for the duration of the 20-21 academic year.

- a) Any exceptions (where there is no ability to provide a particular clinical experience in the home school) will be considered by the AFMC Committee on Undergraduate Education on a case by case basis.
- b) This policy does not apply to core rotations which are completed outside of the home schools

Extensive discussions and consultations were held and multiple factors were considered in the process of making the decision to stop visiting electives for the Class of 2021. Factors that were considered include the ongoing uncertainty as to the evolution of the pandemic; public health measures that vary greatly by province, region and hospital; and the limited (or non-existent) capacity of schools to welcome visiting students. This decision was not taken lightly and the education leadership is aware and acknowledges the impact it may have on some students. Some further points:

1. There will be no change to the electives diversification policy which states that a student may do a maximum of 8 weeks of electives in any one PGY 1 entry discipline.
2. Exceptions will be considered for visiting electives when a home school cannot provide any clinical experience in a specific discipline. For example, school X is in a region that does not have any plastic surgeons. All patients with plastic surgery issues have to be transferred to a different region for management. Student A is interested in plastic surgery as a career. Consideration would be given for student A to do a visiting elective in plastic surgery at a different centre.
3. There are students in the class of 2021 who have already completed either one or more visiting electives due to the structure of the curriculum at their school. The AFMC resident Match Committee Subcommittee on Applications and File Review is considering that reference letters from visiting electives cannot be a requirement for residency application.
4. Unsanctioned electives (weekend site visits, observer-ships, virtual electives) will not be allowed.
5. The Virtual Interview and Program Recruitment Subcommittee will make recommendations how programs can showcase themselves to students. All programs are being encouraged to find innovative ways to meet applicants virtually and showcase themselves.

Student Affairs office at each university will support students in their career planning process.



MCCQE1

AFMC recognizes that there are candidates who have encountered significant challenges in completing their MCCQE1. The AFMC is actively engaged in advocating on behalf of candidates. The AFMC and MCC leadership have been in regular communication. The AFMC is encouraging the MCC to urgently explore opportunities to support students completing their MCCQE1 at faculty of medicine sites. The AFMC will continue to advocate for the best experience possible for candidates. Students are **strongly encouraged** to report any and all issues (even if perceived to be minor) during the MCCQE1 exam to their PhysiciansApply account.

Match 2021 Processes

The AFMC Resident Match Committee, the Applications and File Review, Virtual Interview/ Program Recruitment and Technical Sub-Committees continue their collaborative work. For further information about these, please see the AFMC Update for Students dated the week of May 18, 2020.