

AFMC Update for Students

Week of July 20

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:

Match timelines

The AFMC Resident Match Committee (ARMC) continues to work to finalize the match timelines. These will be communicated in the coming weeks as decisions are finalized.

The Technical Subcommittee

This subcommittee has provided some preliminary recommendations around a detailed 2021 R -1 Match timeline. Following review at a recent ARMC meeting, with input from multiple stakeholders, including student organizations, further modifications are being considered. Opportunities being reviewed include simplification/improvement of the process and information flow for a streamlined match run (e.g. provision of files, rank order lists, etc) as well as enhancing the use of available tools in CaRMS online at key times in the process.

Virtual Interview and Program Recruitment Subcommittee

This subcommittee of the ARMC has been working on developing a centralized platform to assist residency programs in program promotion and is moving into the implementation phase. The subcommittee will begin working on recommendations for the virtual interviews process soon.

Applications and File Review Subcommittee

This subcommittee of the ARMC continues its work reviewing the content of CaRMS applications and file review in order to streamline the processes. Considerations have included the MSPR, the letters of reference, the lettres d'appui, CV's, transcripts, electives and Best Practices in Application Selection report (2013). Of note, the subcommittee will be recommending that electives / clinical experiences that are not approved by the applicant's UGME program should not to be included anywhere in the applicant's R1 CaRMS application.

Electives

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. This decision was not taken lightly and the education leadership is aware and acknowledges the impact it may have on some students. Unsanctioned visiting electives including weekend site visits, observerships and virtual electives (including new virtual research electives) will not be allowed.



CMA Foundation Bursary

Canadian students who have incurred expenses related to COVID-19 are encouraged to seek support from their Student Affairs offices to look at securing reimbursements for these expenses through the bursaries funded by the CMA Foundation.