

## Learner News Week of January 25, 2021

### 1. Match 2021

The following clarifies the implementation of the recommendations made by the Application and File Review Subcommittee of the AFMC Resident Match Committee for the 2021 Match process. The ARMC includes broad representation from UG, PG, SA , learner organizations and CaRMS,

#### Reference letters

##### *Recommendations:*

- *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.*
- *There will be no requirement for a Letter of Reference from the discipline to which the applicant is applying.*
- *Each program may request a maximum of three (3) Letters of Reference from an applicant.*

##### *Letter of Support (Lettre d'appui)*

- *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.*
- *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.*
- *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.*
- *There will be no requirement for a Letter of Support from the discipline to which the applicant is applying.*

These recommendations have been implemented, acknowledging there may be a few outlier program descriptions yet to be updated.

#### Personal letters

##### *Recommendations:*

*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.*

Applicants should proceed with the instructions as currently provided on the program descriptions. This recommendation was presented as an opportunity to provide clarity to applicants. Revising criteria at this time may be disruptive to those applicants who have already proceeded in drafting their letters. If a program has not provided guidance on desired content or maximum length, applicants are to submit a personal letter using their own critical lens to determine how to best present themselves to the program.

### **ITERS**

The opportunity for programs to request an ITER as part of an application package has been removed from program descriptions, and applicants are not required to submit them.

### **Medical school transcripts and MSPRs**

Programs **cannot** request medical school transcripts or MSPRs be notarized or certified (irrespective of the program description). Applicants **may** submit an “unofficial” version of an MSPR or medical school transcript. This is due to the policy change allowing applicants to upload their own versions of these documents.

Applicants must understand that revising or altering an MSPR or Medical School transcript (including removing results from prior university training at the school) is a Match Violation and would disqualify an applicant from their Match result.

### **Provincial proof of language proficiency requirements**

Provinces are in the final stages of determining their provincial proof of language proficiency requirements. Postgraduate offices are being asked to make these updates to the program descriptions as soon as decisions are made. Students are encouraged to check the language testing requirements listed in the CaRMS program descriptions. If students are unable to meet any language testing requirements listed due to lack of availability of testing they are encouraged to contact the PG program and/or their Student Affairs Dean and/or UGME Dean.

## **2. Visiting Electives**

As of January 14, 2021, the UGME Deans have determined that ongoing restrictions of clinical capacity and inter-provincial/international travel will significantly limit the reliable re-opening of visiting electives for July 2021. The UGME Deans will re-evaluate this on an ongoing basis as the Covid pandemic and the conditions to sustain visiting electives evolve. Visiting electives remain UNAVAILABLE until AT LEAST September 2021. The opening of visiting electives will next be reviewed by April 2021 for the possibility of a September 2021 reopening.