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AMO: GUIDE TO THE NATIONAL RESIDENCY MATCHING PROGRAM

How does the process work?

The Match occurs annually. Individuals apply, interview, and rank the residency positions they are most interested in. Institutions that offer residency spots go through a similar process. They register their institution, host graduate interviews, and then rank potential future residents. Once rank lists are complete, the NRMP uses their algorithm to fill the residency spots. Shortly after, students and institutions are notified of their placements should they receive an offer.

Who is eligible to participate in the Match?

International medical graduates are eligible to register for the Match if they are ECFMG certified. To receive this certification, an IMG must pass the USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK and CS and provide verified school transcripts. Graduates must also create a MyERAS account to upload documents such as their resume/CV, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and possible additional items.

What is the timeline?

The Match begins with registration opening in September. Interviews follow, running from October to January. Once interviews are over, both parties have until the end of February to rank the residencies they interviewed with. In mid-March, individuals are notified of their Match.

The National Residency Match Program is an organization that connects graduates to residency positions. They host The Main Residency Match (the Match) annually, using a unique algorithm that takes both the applicant's and the institution's preferences into account to create the best learning experience for all parties.

Additional information on The Match can be found at www.nrmp.org.

MORE RESOURCES

Tips to success in the Match as an IMG:
<http://bit.ly/2r101Lo>

Top 5 Residency Programs for IMGs:
<http://bit.ly/2N6AdWV>

AMO Blog Posts on The Match and Residency:
<http://bit.ly/2oEqNbG>

FINDING A RESIDENCY THAT IS THE RIGHT FIT

One of the last steps in becoming a U.S. physician is completing a residency in a hospital. The Match for these spots can be competitive, and with so much focus placed on simply being accepted, it can be easy to forget that as an applicant you have the power to decide some aspect of your future as determined by the types of opportunities you apply for. The following comments and questions may help you determine the residency programs that are right for you:

Consider Specialties:

- Determine your areas of interests and your strengths. Do your experiences and educational credentials make you a good candidate for this area of study?
- Understand that most specialties have residencies that last three years or more.
- Understand that choosing a subspecialty will require additional time in a residency position. Are you planning on completing these right after each other with the same program, or are you considering a break in between?

Explore Program Details:

- Find out the location of the rotation. Will housing and transportation be readily available here?
- Consider the commitments of the residency and your

potential future career. What are the hours you would be working regularly for this medical specialty? Will you be required to have on-call and evening hours?

- Understand the community. How large is the population? What are the demographics? Such details may influence the number of patients you will see, the types of medical issues they are dealing with, and your income.

Understand the Reality:

- Research the number of residency spots offered in specialties of interest. How many of these were IMGs in recent years?
- Consider data that is specific to geography. Is there a greater rate of Match acceptance in certain states or areas of the U.S?
- Keep an open mind if you are not matched to your desired residency. SOAP is always an option.

HELP FILL THE MATCH REQUIREMENTS THROUGH AMO

Need more U.S. healthcare experience before applying for your own residency program? Apply for a U.S. clinical rotation with AMO opportunities to get the experience that will set you apart!

