

# American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine (AUC)

## Preparing for Residency: CV | Personal Statement

Office of Student and Professional Development



American University of the Caribbean  
School of Medicine

# OSPD Services

The Office of Student and Professional Development (OSPD) can assist with the following topics:

- Residency application process
- Letters of Recommendation
- Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) Letters



# Important Documents

There are several documents that programs use to assess your residency application to determine if you will be granted an interview:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Personal Statement
- Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE)
- Medical School Transcript
- Letters of Recommendation
- USMLE Transcripts
- Photo
- Post-graduate Training Authorization Letter



# Curriculum Vitae (CV)

- Name
- Contact information
- Education
- Certifications
- Work History
- Research
- Publications
- Volunteer experiences
- Languages
- Medical School Awards
- Memberships in Honorary/  
Professional Societies
- Hobbies/Personal Interests



# Curriculum Vitae (CV)

- 1-2 pages in length
- Reverse chronological order
- Standard, legible font
- Microsoft Word Templates
- Digital and hard copy



## MARY SMITH

901 Red Road, Coral Gables, FL 33134 | 305.555.1234 | msmith@students.aucmed.edu

### EDUCATION

American University of the Caribbean, St. Maarten  
**Doctor of Medicine** 2010 – Present  
Anticipated May 2014

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida  
**Master of Science in Nursing** 2009

New York University, New York, New York  
**Bachelor of Science in Nursing** 2004

### AWARDS

Karl G. Stockhausen Service Award, *American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine* 2010 – 2011

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American University of the Caribbean, St. Maarten  
**Teaching Assistant, Anatomy** 2009  
Demonstrated dissection techniques, prepared mock exams.

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida  
**Teaching Assistant, Human Biology** 2008  
Proctored exams, administered grades.

### RELATED EXPERIENCE

Coral Gables Hospital, Coral Gables, Florida  
**Staff Nurse, PICU** 2007 – 2009  
Assisted physicians in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, monitored patient, acted as a liaison between patients' families and hospital staff.

Miami Children's Hospital, Miami, Florida  
**Staff Nurse, Pediatric Oncology** 2005 – 2007  
Assisted physicians in the Oncology Unit. Administered medication, conducted physical assessments, monitored intake and output.

Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, New York  
**Staff Nurse, Pediatric Oncology** 2004 – 2005  
Assisted physicians in the Oncology Unit. Administered medication, conducted physical assessments, monitored intake and output.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

American Medical Women's Association, American University of the Caribbean  
**Port-Au-Prince, Haiti** 2010  
Medical mission trip. Volunteered at a local clinic after the January 2010 earthquake.

### PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

*PTSD in Pediatric Leukemia Patients: A Cross-Cultural Study*  
Research on patients from different cultures reactions to surviving Pediatric Leukemia. In Progress

[Click Here to Download Sample CV Template](#)

# The Personal Statement



# The Personal Statement

A document used to articulate your interest in your chosen specialty.

- What got you interested in your chosen field?
- What are you looking for in a residency program?
- What are your goals in your chosen field?
- What do you bring to the table?





# The Personal Statement

## Content and Structure

### Introduction:

- Lays the foundation for the rest of the Personal Statement.
- Explains a personal story that lead you to your desired specialty.
- Should entice the reader and be intriguing.

### Body (2-3 Paragraphs):

- Focus on what you bring to the table.
- Provide clinical examples and any story of influence relatable to your specialty.
- Suggest specific skills that distinguish you among other candidates.

### Conclusion:

- Reiterate interest in desired field and emphasize goals.
- Include future long term goals.
- Convince the reader that you will be a valuable asset to the program.



# The Personal Statement Format

- 1 page
- Single spaced
- Specific to the specialty or specialties that you are applying to
- Standard, legible font



# Personal Statement Tips

- Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage are critical.
- Take your time.
- Provide appropriate, concrete examples
- Be concise
- Make sure that your conclusion refers to your opening
- Stay positive



# Preparing Your Draft

- Create an outline
- Take your time
- List your reasons for choosing the specialty
- List your qualities that would make you the best person for the job
- Review and proofread drafts often
- Let 1-2 other people read and provide feedback



Traveling allows me to experience the world. I love seeing new countries, eating new foods and learning about new cultures. I can never decide which place I have enjoyed visiting the most. The pyramids of Egypt, the Taj Mahal in India and the Reclining Buddha in Thailand are definitely among the best. Travelling is a never-ending exploration, an opportunity to grow as a person as I immerse myself in the traditions of each country I visit.

I have found Internal Medicine to provide the same opportunities for learning as I have experienced through my travels. My thirst for knowledge is never satisfied. It is not enough for me to know how to make a diagnosis and provide treatment. I always need to understand the rationale behind a decision I make. No field satiates this curiosity better than Internal Medicine.

As an innocent student just beginning my clinical years, I was thrown into the complex and challenging world of Internal Medicine. Through the three months of the clinical rotation, I immersed myself in the pathophysiologic processes, diagnoses and treatment regimens of the patients I was assigned to follow. I can still remember a patient I will call Mr. Smith who was suffering from complications of diabetic nephropathy. Every morning at half past six I would wake him from deep slumber to inquire about his condition overnight and to perform a physical exam. Instead of being annoyed at the disturbance, Mr. Smith came to see me as an integral component of his care during his stay at the hospital and looked to me for information about the next step in his management. From him I learned not only the pathology of disease, but also the special bond that develops between physician and patient.

I came to medical school with the vision that doctors were people with vast knowledge about innumerable ailments. My desire to be one of these people was encouraged when my loved ones turned to me for medical advice. My mother called to ask about the benefits and side effects of hormone replacement therapy, my college friend inquired about the meaning of an abnormal pap smear, and my father questioned whether he should begin medical therapy for his borderline hypertension. I was initially enticed to the field of medicine because these are the types of conditions I wanted to master and be able to treat. There are many admirable paths in medicine, but I believe Internal Medicine provides an intermediate level of specialization that requires a thorough knowledge unlike the breadth in other primary care specialties. After experiencing other specialties, I realized Internal Medicine was my true calling because it was the only field that enabled me to have such a broad, yet solid foundation.

My dream is to one day combine my love of travel and my interest in medicine. I envision myself involved with programs that bring physicians to under-served countries to provide necessary health care. I look forward to working hard, facing challenges and developing knowledge that will continue to grow during my Internal Medicine residency and beyond. I am a motivated and enthusiastic medical student who is committed to pursuing this incredible journey.

[Click Here to Download Sample Personal Statement](#)

# Helpful Resources

- [Personal Statement “Do’s” and “Don’ts”](#) by ECFMG
- [Medical Student Perspectives: Writing the Residency Application Personal Statement](#) by the American College of Physicians
- [Part 1: The Personal Statement](#) by Dr. Brian (2 parts)
- [Part 2: The Personal Statement](#) by Dr. Brian
- [Iserson’s Getting into a Residency: A Guide for Medical Students](#) by Kenneth V. Iserson
- [Sample Personal Statements](#) by USMLEWEB



# Physician Match Advisor

- [Physician Match Advisor Program](#)
- Physician Match Advisors (PMA) hold an MD degree and will provide individualized recommendations to students in order to increase his or her chances of successfully obtaining a desired position in the Match.
- AUC students will schedule a one-hour meeting either by phone or in person with the PMA to discuss the following important topics: Match strategy, academic performance in medical school and how it relates to specific specialties, personal Statement and CV, residency interview and back-up specialty. AUC students should review the Match Handbook for common questions about the residency application process prior to speaking with their designated PMA.



# OSPD Contact

Department email: [ospd@aucmed.edu](mailto:ospd@aucmed.edu)

Department phone: 305-446-0600, option 6

