



American University of the Caribbean  
School of Medicine

## Residency Application Assessment

While we know you have worked extremely hard on your residency application, there are some common pitfalls that even the most detail-oriented applicant can overlook. Review the list below to see if any apply to you.

- 1. Are your USMLE scores comparable to the scores listed in the [National Resident Matching Service® \(NRMP\)](#) and the [Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates® \(ECFMG\) Charting Outcomes in the Match for International Medical Graduates Revised data report](#) for the preferred and/or backup specialty for which you applied?**
  - a. *Try to stay within a 10 point range of the specialty you are interested in. Remember that programs will filter out scores that are too low.*
  
- 2. Do you have letters of recommendation in both your preferred specialty and your backup specialty?**
  - a. *It is possible that you may not have had the letter when you first applied? You will need at least one letter in the specialty or specialties in which you are applying. If you are a repeat applicant, it is especially important as you will have had time to obtain one.*
  
- 3. Do you have positive evaluations and comments in your MSPE letter for both your preferred specialty and backup specialty?**
  - a. *A negative evaluation or comment in the specialty you are applying can impact residency programs' decisions to offer you interviews. Remember that AUC cannot remove or omit comments in your MSPE letter. You may want to consider applying to a specialty in which you have a positive evaluation and comment.*
  
- 4. Did you apply to different geographic regions in the United States?**
  - a. *Do not limit yourself to one geographical area. Identify areas that are IMG-friendly and apply to those programs. Just because you complete a residency in one location does not mean that you will have to stay there beyond your residency training. OSPD recommends applying to 150-200 programs.*
  
- 5. Did you apply to community based programs?**
  - a. *Community-based programs can be excellent training grounds. Community hospitals are often in areas of need where you, as a physician, can see cases that you would not otherwise have the opportunity to treat. These programs are also less competitive.*

**6. Did you apply to programs in which you rotated?**

- a. *With the exception of the UK hospitals, all hospitals where you completed core rotations have residency programs in those specialties. If you completed away electives at other hospitals, take the time to research what residencies they have available.*

**7. Did you apply to programs where AUC graduates have previously matched?**

- a. *AUC's website lists residency placements as far back as 2008. This is an excellent resource as it indicates the programs where your colleagues have matched. The match lists of other Caribbean schools are also good places to look. Here is the link to AUC's placements: <http://www.aucmed.edu/alumni/residency-placement/2016-residency-placements.aspx>.*

**8. Did you apply on or as close as possible to the mid-September NRMP Registration date?**

- a. *While we do not know how a given program will select applicants to interview, we can tell you that the sooner they have your information, the better. That way, no matter when they start filtering applications, yours will be there. If you are waiting on a document such as an LOR or USMLE score, the programs you apply to will be notified that there are new documents in your file.*

**9. Did you write different, specialty specific personal statements for each specialty that you applied to? Was each statement void of all grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors?**

- a. *Make sure that your personal statement speaks directly to the reason why you want to pursue the specialty. See these links for tips:*  
<https://www.acponline.org/membership/medical-students/impact/archive/may-2010/medical-student-perspectives-writing-the-residency-application-personal-statement>  
<http://www.ecfm.org/echo/personal-statements.html>  
*This is a two-part video on the personal statement process:*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nB7-\\_wBkALI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nB7-_wBkALI) (Part 1)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1hwn2G2H\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1hwn2G2H_A) (Part 2)

**10. Is your CV appropriate and void of spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors?**

- a. *Make sure that you are including information relevant to your medical career. This includes research, additional degrees, medical missions and so forth. Please see the sample CV located under the Sample Residency Application Documents on the [OSPD website](#).*

**11. Are you sure that all of your residency application documents are in your ERAS account?**

- a. *It is your responsibility to periodically check your account to make sure that everything is in it. We can only verify that your AUC transcript, MSPE letter, and letters of recommendation are in your account. All other documents are provided by you, USMLE, or ECFMG.*