

Application to Residency: Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register for ERAS?

You will be given a *token* electronically from the Career Development Office in early June of your 4th year. Once you obtain the token, you will register in the [MyERAS application](#) via the AAMC.

ERAS officially opens on September 15th for submission of applications. You can submit your application starting on September 6th. No applications will be downloaded to programs until September 15th. There are no advantages to submitting early, aside from checking the box on your to-do-list. *Please note, you cannot go back and make any changes to your application once you have submitted it. The only change you can make is to add your NRMP ID. You can register for NRMP on 10/1.

Do I need to register for the Match?

Yes! Applying and registering for ERAS does not register you for any established Match. ERAS is a separate entity. If you intend to participate in the Match (and you do!), you must register with the NRMP for the Main Residency Match.

To register for NRMP, you have to pay a one time fee. The standard registration fee is \$80. The Late registration fee is an additional \$50 after November 30th.

NRMP for the Main Residency Match opens on September 15th. Once you register for <http://www.nrmp.org/NRMP> (which you will need to do in order to enter your match list in February) you will receive your NRMP number. You can go back into ERAS and update this specific component of your application.

What are the major components to my ERAS application?

Aside from filling out the ERAS application, you will need to include the following in your application:

- **A copy of your Brown University official transcript.** You can order your official transcript from the Brown University Registrar's Office, [here](#). Please check your BANNER account to be sure all of your grades are posted. Often the grade is posted in OASIS but not yet in BANNER. Have an electronic copy of your transcript sent to [Janice Viticonte@brown.edu](mailto:Janice.Viticonte@brown.edu). Be sure to request your transcript by the last full week of September to ensure it is posted to your application by September 15th.
- **JPEG wallet-seized photo.** Your application is not considered complete without a photo. Please be aware that programs cannot download your photo until they have offered you an interview. This photo does not have to be a professional portrait, but

should look professional (Shirt, tie & jacket for men, plain top and jacket for women). Many students have a friend take a headshot against a plain wall. We would encourage you to be sure your photo has a plain background (less distracting.)

- **USMLE transcript.** To have your Step scores sent to programs, you need to check the box on your ERAS application that requests the USMLE transcript. When you check this box, it should say “Verified for Upload”. Once you certify and submit your application on September 15th (and pay the fee) the NBME will send your USMLE scores to ALL of the programs on your list. If you have additional step scores that come in the next few months, you can go back into ERAS and resend the USMLE transcript and the new scores will go to all the programs you applied to. There is no additional fee for this. *Please note: the USMLE transcript is a full transcript. If your Step 2 CK & Step 2 CS scores have been reported by the time you submit your application on 9/15, they will be included.
- **Personal statement.** When entering your personal statement into ERAS, you want to be sure that you either type it or be sure to copy and paste using plain text to avoid any formatting concerns. Your personal statement should be approximately one page in length (in a Word document), size 12 font, with regular 1” margins. When you enter your personal statement into ERAS, it is okay if it looks much shorter than in the Word document!
- **Letters of Recommendation.** Most programs require a minimum of three letters of recommendation, but will allow up to four letters of recommendation to be uploaded. Be sure to check program specific requirements, some programs do not want the 4th letter, other programs require a department chair letter, etc.

How do I ask for a letter of recommendation?

You can print out your Letter of Request Form directly from ERAS. Go to the Letter of Recommendation section within ERAS and complete the information for each letter writer. Please remember that you must finalize the LoR writer for it to appear in ERAS. The letter should be address “Dear Program Director”. The LoR request form will also include instructions for uploading the letter into ERAS for your letter writer. Your letter writer or a designee must be the person who uploads the LoR.

What types of letters of recommendation do I need?

The types of letters of recommendation are program and specialty specific. Generally speaking, you should to have at least 2 letters of recommendation from the field that you are going into. The fourth letter (if a program allows), is typically a “value added” letter from a research experience or potentially from a specialty outside the field to which you are applying.

My application is ready to go, but not all my LoRs have been uploaded. What do I do?

You do not have to wait for all your letters to be uploaded before you submit your application on September 15th. If you are waiting for a letter, you can assign the letters that have been uploaded and send out your application. Once the additional letter(s) has been uploaded, you can then assign that letter and resubmit. Or, can you assign the letter and once the letter is uploaded it automatically sends to the programs. Letters continue to be submitted and downloaded through the month of October.

What is the MSPE?

The MSPE is **not** one of your letters of recommendation. The MSPE is the Medical Student Performance Evaluation. It is a compilation and summary of your medical school career. The MSPE is released by the medical school to programs on October 1. You will see a draft of the MSPE before it is uploaded to residency programs.

In the ERAS application, what do I put as the “Reason for Leaving”?

Every entry on the ERAS form gives you an optional field to complete as a reason for leaving. It is not necessary to complete this, you can leave it blank.

Where do I put my Honors thesis in ERAS?

If you have an honors thesis, you can list it under research. There is no place for you to list it under education.

What kind of information am I supposed to include in the “Medical School Honors/Awards” section in ERAS?

The medical school honors and awards section in ERAS is specifically for honors and awards you received during your time in medical school. Some examples include, scholarly concentration, travel awards, clinical honors.

What kind of information am I supposed to include in the “Other Accomplishments” section?

The other accomplishments section is an area of the ERAS application where you can list significant accomplishments that you have had outside of medical school. Some examples include undergraduate honors, undergraduate thesis or research awards, exchange programs, marathon completion, triathlon completion, Eagle Scout.

Do I include experiences from undergraduate in my experiences section?

Yes. You can include information from your undergraduate experience. Significant leadership and research experience are relevant.

What happens if I get a new grade after my application has been submitted?

Once your application has been submitted, no changes can be made. You can send updates directly to the program via email during the application and interview season with information on new publications, presentations, and relevant grades.

How much does it cost to apply to programs in ERAS?

ERAS application fees are based on the number of programs applied to **per specialty**. MyERAS automatically calculates the fee based on the following chart:

Programs Per Specialty	Application Fee
Up to 10 programs	\$99
11 – 20 programs	\$13 each
21 – 30 programs	\$17 each
31 or more programs	\$26 each

Are there any other fees as part of the application?

Yes. There is a one-time USMLE transcript fee of \$80.

There are a lot of pieces to ERAS, is anyone available to review my materials before I submit?

YES! We are here to help you! You can have your specialty advisor, Alex Morang or Kelly Whalen review your CV, personal statement, program list and ERAS application for advice and input throughout the season. We strongly encourage this and look forward to working with you on your application!