



AMO Visitor Guide

PREPARING FOR YOUR CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

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Congrats! You've already come so far in your education. Whether you are planning to become a physician, dentist, or nurse, your commitment to helping others be as healthy as possible is cause for celebration.

We are so excited that you've selected AMO opportunities to connect you with real-world medical training in the form of a clinical experience. When you rotate with AMO, you join a network of 350,000+ medical trainees from around the globe set to become future leaders in medicine.

In taking advantage of this opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with others, you open the door to unlimited possibilities. Will this clinical experience help you get in medical school? Will it help you meet curriculum requirements? Will it elevate your residency application? No matter what stage of the journey you are in, AMO opportunities is glad to be part of it!

-Kelli Rojek, Chief Experience Officer

Your Support Team

These individuals provide support throughout your journey with AMOpportunities.



Ashley



Wanh



Mia

VISITOR EXPERIENCE COACHES

Our Visitor Experience Coaches, Ashley, Mia, and Wanh, are available to answer any questions you may have and provide guidance as you expand your medical knowledge. Their goals are to make your stay in the U.S. as comfortable as possible, allowing you to enjoy every aspect of your clinical experience.



Alisia



Shelby

PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Alisia and Shelby, our Program Coordinators, work behind the scenes to ensure your precepting physician and rotation site are prepared to host you. They are in constant contact with both parties to confirm that your enrollment documents are reviewed promptly.

Enrolling in Your Experience

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Once you book your experience with us, we recommend you begin the enrollment process. AMO requires all visitors to upload required program documents at least 45 days prior to your program start date. Some experiences may require you to submit documentation further in advance. Meeting the enrollment deadline will ensure you can participate in your experience as scheduled.

Here is an overview of the documents you must submit to be fully enrolled. The next section includes additional information on each requirement.

- AMO immunization form
- Proof of a visa
- Proof of a passport
- Dean's letter (students)
- Diploma copy (graduates)
- Health insurance
- Malpractice insurance*
- Proof of English proficiency
- Program-specific documents
- Resume/CV

All documents must be uploaded as PDFs or high-quality JPEGs. If you do not have software to convert your documents into PDFs, use this [free online PDF converter](#).

In addition, documents must be in English. When uploading these documents, make sure the file names do not include any spaces. Failure to adhere to these requirements may cause a delay in the processing of your documents.

*Required for hands-on experiences only.



Immunizations

When you log into your AMO Account and visit your Dashboard, you should see an AMO immunization form. You must download and complete this document. The document must include your healthcare provider's signature and stamp and a copy of your medical records. Depending on the program you enroll in, additional medical credentialing may be required.

To access the AMO immunization form [click here](#). You can also download the form from your AMO account by taken the steps outlined below.

1. Login to your AMO account.
2. Select 'Documents' in the top menu.
3. Click 'Resources and Guides.'
4. Scroll down and select 'Download Immunization Form.'



Health Insurance

When traveling abroad, it is essential to stay in good health—having good health insurance while abroad will allow you to visit the doctor if and when you need to. The federal and state governments do not provide assistance with health insurance; for this reason, you must purchase coverage for the duration of your stay in the U.S. If you have health insurance in your home country it will likely not cover expenses incurred while in the U.S. We recommend purchasing health insurance through one of our partner companies, [here](#).

In addition to general health insurance, COVID-19-related medical expense coverage is required for all AMO visitors, regardless of the program you are enrolled in. Our partner broker Visitors Coverage offers [plans that cover these expenses](#).



Malpractice Insurance

Malpractice insurance is required for all hands-on clinical experiences. You may purchase this insurance through AMO for \$199, via the Dashboard section of your account.

If you elect to secure malpractice insurance elsewhere, please note the minimum coverage requirements: 1 million USD in coverage per claim and 3 million USD in total/aggregate coverage.

Program-Specific Documents

Specific programs may require you to provide additional documentation to enter the program site. Such documents must be verified by the hospital or clinic. This process can take four to six weeks, and, for this reason, it is crucial they are uploaded at least 45 days prior to the start date of your clinical experience. Be sure to double-check your application to see if your program requires additional documents.

Below are examples of additional documents:

- Hospital packets
- Medical documents
- Background checks
- A letter of intent
- A letter of recommendation
- Drug screening
- HIPAA certification
- Quizzes or tests

Some programs may charge administration fees to process additional documents or pay for a hospital badge. These fees vary from program to program.

Reminder:

Hospitals and clinics have strict policies in place to ensure patient and visitor safety. If your coach does not clear you to begin your experience, do not attempt to enter the program site. If you have difficulty meeting any of the enrollment requirements, please contact your coach as soon as possible so they can assist you.

FINAL PAYMENTS

In addition to submitting the documents outlined in the previous section, your clinical experience must be paid in full at least 45 days before your program start date. Failure to pay the remaining balance for your clinical experience by this date may delay the start of your experience or force it to be canceled entirely. If you have questions or concerns about paying for your clinical experience by this deadline, please [contact your AMO coach](#) as soon as possible.

Planning Your Trip

VISA INFORMATION

Securing Your B1 Visa Invitation Letter

Once you reserve your clinical experience, you are eligible to request a B1 visa invitation letter from AMO. To be eligible for this letter, you must provide the following:

- A dean's letter (students)
- Diploma copy (graduates)
- Passport copy
- Proof of a scheduled visa interview

This letter is addressed to the consul general and outlines the basic premise of the clinical experience. It may be used to start the visa process at the United States Consulate in your home country. To apply for the B1 visa, you will also need to complete the DS-160 form online, pay the visa application fee, and schedule your visa interview.

Passing Your Visa Interview

Visa interviews are often limited and should be scheduled in advance. Without this interview, you cannot secure a visa. We recommend scheduling your interview in the beginning of the month.

For the best chance of obtaining this document, you must be well prepared, provide proper documentation, and present yourself with respect and professionalism. Aim to arrive at least 15 minutes before your interview time slot; late arrivals can result in appointment cancellation. Because appointments are limited, rescheduling may be difficult.

Prior to your interview, you must upload the following documents online. You must also bring physical copies to your interview.

- A B1 visa invitation letter from AMO
- Proof of intent to leave the U.S. once the rotation concludes
- Proof of the necessary funds to participate in the rotation
- Proof of ties to your home country
- Official school transcripts (students)
- Proof of a degree (graduates)
- Letter from your dean approving the rotation (students)
- Receipt of application fee payment
- Confirmation Page of Form DS-160
- Formatted visa photo
- Resume/ CV

For additional visa information, consult our [visa resource packet](#) or [watch this video](#).



TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Traveling to the U.S.

It is your responsibility to arrange your travel to the U.S. for your experience and back home after.

While it is not required, we do recommend purchasing travel insurance for your trip abroad. This type of insurance may help you recover from financial losses in the event that your trip is cancelled or cut short for some unforeseeable reason.



Traveling within the U.S.

Before your clinical experience even begins, you should get familiar with the travel options available in the city where your housing and rotation site is located. While public transportation options vary from city to city within the U.S., here are some you may utilize.

- **Trains/Buses**

Major U.S. cities have a train or bus system which travels almost everywhere. Suburban or rural areas may have limited options for [public transportation](#).

- **Taxis**

Taxis are standard in larger cities and can be ordered with a phone call or flagged down on busy street corners, in front of hotels, or outside of airports. This may be a more expensive transportation option than others.

- **Rideshare Services**

[Uber](#) and [Lyft](#) are popular in the U.S. and use cellphone apps to connect you to nearby drivers.

- **Car Rentals**

Depending on the location of your clinical experience, you may decide that renting a car will be the most convenient option. This may be true for clinical experiences in suburban areas or towns with limited public transportation. Past visitors have had success renting vehicles from [Hertz](#), [Enterprise](#), and [Budget](#). If you plan on renting a car and have a driver's license from another country, you may be required to get an international driver's license to rent a vehicle. Rules pertaining to this vary from service to service.



HOUSING INFORMATION

Before you arrive in the U.S., you must secure housing. While AMO opportunities does not provide housing, we can make some recommendations.

One option is to secure housing through one of our partnered homestay services, [American HomeStay Network](#), [Sara's Homestay](#) or [4stay](#). All three companies place visitors with a kind and welcoming host in a location close to their rotation site.

Another option is to secure housing through [Airbnb](#). If you follow the link in your AMO Dashboard, you will receive a list of Airbnb options close to your clinical experience site. Airbnb has many filters to help you narrow down options based on your preference.

Depending on how long you stay in the U.S., some renters may offer an extended stay discount.

Your coach is happy to contact the listing owner on Airbnb to discuss possible discounts and housing details on your behalf.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

Staying Safe

Your time in the U.S. should be fun and memorable; here are some tips to keep it that way!

- Keep your valuables close.
- Don't travel with large sums of money. Open a U.S. bank account instead.
- Inform others of your location.
- Always have a cellphone on you.
- Share your phone number with AMO.
- Keep photocopies of important documents with you.

Banking Information

You should be able to open a bank account in the U.S. with a passport and proof of residency in the U.S.; an electronic contract for your housing is often sufficient for this or a piece of mail with your name and address on it. You will also need proof of funds, which can be a bank statement. Finally, there will be a minimum required deposit, which varies based on the bank selected.

Phone Recommendations

It's a good idea to have a cellphone while abroad. We recommend adding international services to your current phone plan but, if this is not an option, you may purchase a SIM card that serves the same purpose. You can purchase SIM cards through [USASIMS](#) or [Mint Mobile](#). If your phone is incompatible with these cards, you may purchase both a phone and SIM card from a U.S. provider when you arrive. In addition, you may find it useful to purchase a small data package. Doing so will give you access to internet which you may find helpful when navigating the city you are rotating in.

Getting Ready for Your Experience

PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION

AMO provides virtual pre-departure orientation for upcoming visitors. Please keep an eye out for communication from your coach on signing up to attend a session.

DETERMINING PROGRAM DETAILS

Once you are fully enrolled in your clinical experience with AMO, you should receive an email which outlines specific program protocol. This may include directions for what to do upon arriving for the first day of your experience or the email of your preceptor/an administrator to reach out to for instructions. If you are not asked to reach out to any party, don't worry—someone will reach out to you!

EXPERIENCE TYPES

Inpatient/Outpatient Exposure

Our clinical experiences will introduce you to the U.S. healthcare system. This system relies on inpatient (hospital) and outpatient services (clinic/physician's office). Your experience may include exposure to both or just one of these services.

Observership vs. Hands-On Experiences

OBSERVERSHIP	HANDS-ON
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervised rotation without direct patient contact• Offers exposure to the U.S. medical system but limits the visitor to observing the practice of medicine by the physician• Visitors do not administer care to patients• Visitors must maintain privacy requirements of patients (in accordance with HIPAA and Joint Commission regulation policies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patient-focused clinical exposure• Visitors will engage in some form of patient interaction that is not considered the unsupervised practice of medicine• Visitors may record patient history or complete examinations• Visitors must adhere to HIPAA, Joint Commission regulations, and state guidelines regarding patient interaction, presenting cases, and giving differential diagnosis to the supervising physician

For additional information on the differences between hands-on and observership experiences, [click here](#).

AVOIDING MALPRACTICE

During your clinical experience, you may be tempted to care for patients without supervision from your preceptor. It's important to avoid unlawfully practicing medicine in this way as it could have serious repercussions and could cause difficulties in obtaining your medical license, applying for residency, or securing malpractice insurance. As a visitor, you are responsible for complying with U.S. federal, state, and local laws and regulations. To maintain compliance, adhere to the following:

You must not engage in the unsupervised practice of medicine. Anyone introducing themselves as a physician, professional, or specialist uses the title of Dr. or MD. Presenting yourself with this title is considered engaging in the unlicensed practice of medicine, which is criminal. If you are a medical graduate or licensed in your home country, do not introduce yourself with these titles; instead, present yourself as an international medical trainee.

Patient confidentiality is legally binding. You must not discuss patient information with friends, colleagues, or anyone not authorized to be involved in the patient's care. By participating in an AMO rotation, you agree that you have familiarized yourself with HIPAA rules and regulations and will not transmit protected information to unauthorized parties, including AMO.

REQUESTING YOUR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

AMO clinical experiences provide participants with the opportunity to earn a letter of recommendation. These letters are merit-based and can be used to apply for residency programs and enhance a resume or CV.

Because these letters are merit-based, it is your responsibility to request a letter and ensure that you are doing enough to earn one. Strong LoRs have content that speaks to your character, medical skills and knowledge, and devotion to the medical field. For your precepting physician to write a letter that includes these items, your mannerisms during the experience must reflect them.

During the second week of your clinical experience, or earlier if you feel comfortable, discuss the possibility of receiving an LoR with your precepting physician. During this discussion, share the date you will need the document and the best way to receive it. You may decide to have your precepting physician upload it directly to ERAS if you will be using it to apply for residency. If this is not the case, you may prefer to have them email it to you or your university.

For additional information on LoRs and how to upload them to ERAS, [click here](#).

BEST PRACTICES FOR SUCCESS

Dress Code

The dress code for AMO clinical experiences is business casual. Both your appearance and clothing should be clean and neat. We recommend wearing dress pants or chinos, button-ups or polo shirts, and dress shoes. You may also wear skirts, dresses, blouses, and closed toe shoes. Be sure to practice good hygiene. Avoid using fragrances and perfumes as patients you come in contact with may have allergies.

If you have a white coat and stethoscope, bring those as well. If they are not needed, your precepting physician will tell you after the first day.

Behavior

Clinical experiences and the people you meet during them can impact your future in healthcare. For this reason, you should always exercise respect and professionalism by adhering to the following suggestions.

1. Prioritize Communication

Communicate your goals during the experience with your precepting physician. When you don't understand something, don't be afraid to speak up. If you find yourself running late or unable to attend your rotation, notify your physician and AMO as soon as possible.

2. Act Professional

Be respectful towards your precepting physician, others participating in the experience, and healthcare professionals at your rotation site—address physicians by their title: doctor. Avoid using your phone during the experience unless necessary.

3. Maintain a Good Attitude

Show enthusiasm. At times you may feel unsure about yourself or the experience; when this occurs, try to make the best of it.

4. Be Punctual

On the first day of your experience, be sure to arrive early. Continue this throughout your rotation when possible. Being on time will show your precepting physician that you are responsible and respect their time and schedule.

Post-Clinical Experience

COMPLETING YOUR CLINICAL EXPERIENCE EVALUATION

In addition to earning a LoR, once you complete your clinical experience, you can earn a letter of completion from AMO! To get this letter you must complete your Clinical Experience Evaluation via [your AMO Dashboard](#).

Completing this allows you to provide us with valuable feedback. We use the information to find out what aspects of our experiences and services are successful and where we can improve. Help us create an even better clinical experience for our next visitors!

LEAVING ONLINE REVIEWS

If you enjoyed your clinical experience with us, we hope you will consider leaving us a review online. Doing so can encourage potential visitors to book an experience, allowing us to continue our mission of making clinical training accessible on a global scale.

Consider leaving us a review with the [Better Business Bureau](#), or on [Google](#) and [Facebook](#).

ENTERING THE PHOTO AND BLOG CONTEST

During the second half of your clinical experience with us, you'll receive an email with an invitation to enter the AMO Photo and Blog Contest. To enter the contest, you must write a 300 word or longer blog post that centers on your clinical experience. We also ask that you send in some photos. You will have two weeks after your clinical experience ends to send in your submission. Submissions should be sent to your AMO Coach by email.

Following the submission deadline, the AMO team will select one winner. This winner's story and photos will be shared on our blog and social media platforms. The winner will also be able to select either a Free Kaplan QBank Test Prep Course or a \$50 Amazon Gift card as a prize.

For additional details on entering the contest, [click here](#). For inspiration on what to write, [check out past entries on our blog](#).

BOOKING ANOTHER EXPERIENCE

Whether they need LoRs to apply for U.S. residency programs with or simply enjoyed their clinical experience, many of our visitors decide to book additional experiences with us. If you decide to apply for another clinical experience with AMO, simply [contact your AMO coach](#) directly and they'll help you with the next steps!