

Letters of Recommendation

WHY A U.S. CLINICAL EXPERIENCE?

The American Medical Association strongly encourages international medical graduates to participate in U.S. clinical experiences before deciding to apply to a residency program in the United States. Most, if not all, residency positions require at least three months of clinical experience. Participating in an AM Opportunities program puts you one step ahead by providing you with the experience you need.

WHY YOU NEED A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Based on your performance in an AM Opportunities clinical experience, you will have the opportunity to earn a letter of recommendation from your physician preceptor. These letters of recommendation are significant, especially when applying to a U.S. or European residency program. The importance of the letter and the weight it carries in your application is determined by its content and its author's credentials, rather than the letterhead it is written on.

A strong letter of recommendation helps provide you the credibility you need within the American clinical system. United States residency programs will look at this letter as an indication of your abilities. The physician author's academic affiliations, the clinical sites you visited, and the activities that took place are generally the most valuable aspects of the letter. Residency programs will accept letters from references in your home country, but the letter of recommendation you earn through your AM Opportunities experience gives you a professional reference from a U.S. physician preceptor vouching for your clinical skills.

An AM Opportunities experience has a lasting impact. Through us you are not only enriching your medical knowledge but setting yourself up for more opportunities down the line. The letter of recommendation you receive upon completing an AM Opportunities experience allows you to take those next steps should you decide to pursue a residency program in the United States, Europe, or any country you choose.

THE BOTTOM LINE

You must have a conversation with your physician no later than two weeks into your rotation, letting them know which method you prefer to receive your LOR as well as a timeline for completion. If you have any questions or need further instructions, please reach out to your AMO Visitor Experience Coach