



COVID policy for US electives – Class of 2021

Approved By: MDCM Program Committee

Approved On: July 20, 2020

Updated by: Associate dean, UGME

Updated on: N/A

Pertinent to: MDCM students

Purpose: Complimentary policy applicable to existing UGME policies in the time of COVID-19. Please note that **this document is subject to change** to ensure a timely response to the pandemic.

Preamble

- The MDCM class includes international and US students. Some students are planning to apply to the US residency matching called Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), managed by the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP);
- Canadian visiting electives have been cancelled for the class of 2021 across the country for all Canadian medical students;
- The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the clinical learning environment and affected the health care systems in both the United States and Canada;
- The AAMC (American Association of Medical Colleges) is a member of the “Coalition for Physician Accountability’s Work Group on Medical Students in the Class of 2021”. Their [Recommendations for away electives during the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) were published on May 11, 2020.

Guiding Principles

- US electives may contribute to the chances of matching in a discipline of one’s choice in the US
- Different types of electives may exist in the US: remote or in-person research electives, virtual clinical clerkship electives or in-person clinical electives.
- McGill University is not permitting academic travel to the US for the Fall 2020 semester.
- Student safety during the Coronavirus pandemic remains the most important guiding principle and must be ensured at all times.
- Rules and regulations from regulating health bodies and governmental agencies must be followed without exception. This includes mandatory self-isolation, geographic and travel restriction, requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) and any other requirements for public and patient health and safety.
- Students must comply with the McGill UGME electives policy during their rotation outside Canada, including eligible types of electives, maximum number of weeks, and all UGME Policy concerning professionalism and conduct.

Policy

1. In-person US electives are not permitted for the Fall 2020 term, as decreed by McGill University's [statement on cancelled student mobility and travel](#).
2. Remote research US electives will be permitted on a case-by-case basis for students who are applying to American universities residency programs. Priority will be given to students applying only to ERAS (and not to CARMS).
3. In order to apply to a remote research US elective, a student must contact the Electives Director, UGME to request approval for the elective. The following information will be required:
 - a. Name of elective;
 - b. Parent discipline and related entry-route discipline (PGY-1);
 - c. Objectives of the remote research elective;
 - d. Roles and responsibilities of the clerk in the remote research project;
 - e. Duration of the elective (number of weeks) and exact dates requested;
 - f. Host institution's information (affiliated University, specific hospital, city, state);
 - g. Name of the supervisor and contact information;
 - h. Name of the department offering the elective and the contact information;
 - i. Confirmation from the host school and/or supervisor that they can offer this elective opportunity;
4. The UGME office will conduct a pedagogical assessment of the proposed remote elective to ensure that MDCM program objectives are met and adequate during this proposed elective.
5. Electives Director will review all the information mentioned to make her decision. She may contact the elective supervisor to gather more details about the elective. Her decisions are final and no appeals are possible.

Document History

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