

Preparing for the ERAS 2010 Application Season

Information on the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) 2010 application season is now available. If you plan to apply for U.S. residency positions that begin in July 2010, visit the ECFMG ERAS Support Services website at www.ecfm.org/eras for important information. Most medical specialties participate in ERAS. If you apply to programs in participating specialties, you must apply to these programs using ERAS.

At ECFMG's ERAS Support Services website, you will be able to:

- Obtain an ERAS Token, which will allow you to access the MyERAS website to work on your residency applications.
- Find instructions for submitting your supporting documents, such as letters of recommendation and transcripts, to ERAS Support Services for transmission to the ERAS PostOffice.

If you plan to participate in ERAS, you should also be familiar with the following policies and procedures that are new for ERAS 2010.

ERAS Token Fee Increases

The fee for a Token has increased to \$90 per ERAS application season. The Token is a 14-digit, alpha-numeric code required to register at the MyERAS website. Tokens are valid for one ERAS season only; the ERAS software will not recognize a Token issued for a previous ERAS season.

You can obtain a Token via ECFMG's OASIS beginning on Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

Mandatory Use of Digital Photograph Upload Feature

If you wish to submit a photograph as part of your ERAS application, you must submit a digital photograph via the ERAS Support Services section of ECFMG's OASIS. Photographs mailed to ERAS Support Services for scanning will not be accepted. For instructions on how to upload your digital photograph, see the Documents page of the ERAS Support Services at ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org/eras/documents.html.

If you participated in the ERAS 2009 season and submitted a photograph, ERAS Support Services will reuse that photograph for ERAS 2010. If you wish to update your photograph, follow the instructions for uploading a digital photo via ECFMG's OASIS.

ERAS 2010 Repeat Applicants Can Reuse Letters of Recommendation

If you participated in the ERAS 2009 season and also participate in the ERAS 2010 season, you are considered a Repeat Applicant. Repeat Applicants are not required to resubmit Medical Student Performance Evaluations (MSPEs), medical school transcripts, or photographs unless they want to update these documents. New for ERAS 2010, Repeat Applicants also will be able to reuse those Letters of Recommendation (LoRs) that they assigned to at least one program during the ERAS 2009 season.

You will be automatically identified as a Repeat Applicant at the time you make an ERAS 2010 Token request via OASIS. ERAS Support Services will retrieve your stored ERAS 2009 MSPE, medical school transcript, and photograph and upload them to the ERAS 2010 PostOffice within three to five business days from the time you use your Token to register at MyERAS. ERAS Support Services will retrieve any LoR that you assigned to at least one program during ERAS 2009 and upload it to the ERAS PostOffice within one to two business days from the time that you reserve an electronic slot for the letter writer at MyERAS. You will be able to track the status of these existing documents via the ERAS Support Services section of ECFMG's OASIS.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Only those LoRs that were assigned to at least one program during ERAS 2009 will be reused for ERAS 2010. If you submitted an LoR but did not assign it to any programs during ERAS 2009, that LoR will not be available for reuse in ERAS 2010. To use that letter for ERAS 2010, submit it to ERAS Support Services, accompanied by a completed Document Submission Form.

For more information, including instructions on how to reuse LoRs, see the Repeat Applicants page of the ERAS Support Services at ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org/eras/repeat.html.

ERAS Support Services at ECFMG Working with International Medical Schools to Implement Electronic Submission of Supporting Documents

ERAS Support Services at ECFMG is collaborating with international medical schools that have formally agreed to submit supporting documents electronically to ECFMG on behalf of their students/graduates. These documents include MSPEs, medical school transcripts, and LoRs.

Electronic submission of supporting documents eliminates the need for ERAS Support Services to scan these documents, enabling ERAS Support Services to upload documents to the ERAS PostOffice within two to three business days of their receipt at ECFMG. Currently, ERAS Support Services requires up to four weeks to scan and upload documents to the ERAS PostOffice.

This method of document submission is open to all international medical schools that wish to participate. For more information, interested schools should contact ERAS Support Services at eras-support@ecfm.org; enter "Electronic Document Submission / Attn: Ms. Anna Iacone" in the subject line.