

## **AAMC Policies Regarding The Collection, Use, and Dissemination of Resident, Intern, Fellow, and Residency, Internship, and Fellowship Application Data:**

Last updated: March 30, 2023

The AAMC recognizes its responsibility to treat with care the information it collects about individuals involved in medical education, and to respect their privacy relative to sensitive data concerning them. To meet this obligation, the AAMC has developed policies to prevent the exposure of confidential personal data without the permission of the individual involved, to limit the distribution of sensitive data to those situations which require it, and to permit distribution of non-sensitive, directory information wherever a useful purpose can be served.

Any personal information provided to the AAMC by you or about you related to application to or participation in a residency, internship or fellowship will be handled in accordance with the [AAMC Privacy Statement](#) and this statement, which is incorporated by reference to the AAMC Privacy Statement. While both policies apply to the treatment of your personal information, in the event there is a difference in the two policies, the terms of this statement will control. You acknowledge that the collection, use, and transfer of your personal information in accordance with these policies is part of your agreement with the AAMC to participate in the Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®).

Through ERAS, we facilitate the transfer of information relevant to a residency, internship, or fellowship application to the programs to which the applicant designates the information to be sent. We retain your application data and supporting documents in the ERAS application for up to seven years from the end of the current application season, after which the supporting documents are purged. Your application data are retained in the AAMC data warehouse for research and other purposes as permitted by the AAMC Privacy Statement.

Medical schools provide information to us that we use to develop records on the participation of individuals in graduate medical education programs (“programs”). These programs verify and update this information. Such information permits us to maintain accurate records of the number of residents and fellows and their mobility and allows programs to use the information to fulfill requirements of accrediting bodies and others.

We publish information on residents, interns, fellows, and applicants to residency, internship, and fellowship programs in the form of aggregate statistics in various AAMC

studies and reports. We consider certain information about residents, interns, and fellows to be directory information, for example, the names and program level of those participating in these training programs. We exchange personal information with certifying boards, licensing bodies, and other organizations involved in medical education for research, eligibility determination, verification, and credentialing purposes and to investigate and report to legitimately interested parties any irregularities in the application process. Any sharing of individually identified information with third parties is done in accordance with the AAMC's privacy, confidentiality, and security policies. Once personal information has been transferred to a third party, the information is subject to that party's policies, unless otherwise noted.

A program that receives personal information from ERAS applications (ERAS applicant data) may use the ERAS applicant data for its processes related to selection for residency, internship, or fellowship positions and for other educational, non-commercial uses, including research. Use of these data is subject to the following prohibitions: (i) selling or licensing ERAS applicant data for a fee; (ii) using ERAS applicant data for marketing purposes; (iii) using ERAS applicant data to engage in unlawful discrimination; and (iv) using ERAS applicant data to contact applicants for surveying or research purposes prior to that year's Match or other applicable selection event, and (v) any other terms and conditions for the web application through which the program accesses ERAS applicant data.

We do not sell mailing lists, email addresses, or other contact information on residency, internship or fellowship applicants, or on residents, interns, or fellows to commercial vendors. However, we may enter into arrangements with commercial and noncommercial firms to verify that someone is a resident, intern, or fellow, in order to establish eligibility for products or services that the person has sought.

We use data submitted as part of an application to a residency, internship, or fellowship, or on residents, interns, or fellows, in analyses aimed at improving the quality of our products and services. We also use these data to support worthwhile research projects that help to inform policy in medical education. We share data with the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) about graduates of DO-granting medical schools for the AOA's own policy analyses and research on trends in medical education.

At our discretion, we may agree to support researchers outside of the AAMC who are interested in contacting residency, internship, or fellowship applicants, residents, interns, or fellows for the purpose of surveying them on issues that are important to medical education. We do this by notifying the individual by email of the opportunities to participate in such research. We do not provide the email addresses of residency or fellowship applicants, residents, or fellows directly to these researchers.

The medical education community seeks continuous quality improvement in preparing physicians for the independent practice of medicine. To that end, medical schools wish to receive assessment data about their graduates from program directors to help the medical schools with their own assessment efforts and to help improve the transition from undergraduate medical education to graduate medical education. By submitting your application through ERAS, you agree that the AAMC may collect individually-identified assessment information about your performance from your residency program, released in accordance with the program's institutional policies, and share such assessment information with the medical school from which you graduated; provided the medical school agrees that (i) it will protect the confidentiality of such data, (ii) it will not share the data with any third party, (iii) it will only use the data to evaluate its curriculum and to conduct educational research, and (iv) it will not use such data for any personnel decisions about an individual, including (but not limited to) the individual's eligibility for being hired or promoted at the medical school or at any of the medical school's affiliated institutions. AAMC's use and release of such assessment information is subject to the AAMC Privacy Statement. You may opt-out of this survey by emailing [privacy@aamc.org](mailto:privacy@aamc.org).

If you have any questions about these policies or procedures, please contact us at [privacy@aamc.org](mailto:privacy@aamc.org).