



Penn Visiting Clerkships for Students Underrepresented in Medicine

The Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia | Penn Medicine



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are there general visiting student opportunities outside of this program?

General visiting student rotations are available through the Perelman School of Medicine's (PSOM) Registrar's Office. If you are interested in rotating at Penn regardless of acceptance to our program, then you may want to move forward and apply for a general rotation slot now. PSOM uses VLSO for both the URIM Visiting Clerkship program and general visiting student rotations. To find more info: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/student/application-and-dates.html>

2. Are students from non-US medical schools eligible for this program?

Non-US Medical Schools do not usually have agreements with Perelman School of Medicine to cover visiting students' necessary insurance for a visiting rotation and, as such, are not eligible for this program. Medical students who attend schools in US territories (such as Puerto Rico) are eligible. Otherwise please look for opportunities through Penn's Center for Global Health: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/globalhealth/international-trainees-scholars.html>

3. Is there rolling acceptance for this program?

Given the desire to communicate earlier with students, some specialty programs (Otolaryngology, Pediatrics, Radiation Oncology, Radiology, Urology) will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis and sending acceptances along the way until their spots are full. If you have a particular need to know earlier than a program's deadline, please contact the appropriate Clerkship Coordinator or reach out to Dr. Jessica Fowler (fowlerj@chop.edu).

4. Are the rotation dates flexible?

We know that the PSOM rotation dates do not always line up with the rotation dates for visiting students' medical school schedules. We sometimes have flexibility with this and would encourage you to still apply. If accepted, we do our best to adjust the dates to accommodate your medical school schedule.

5. What if I am already scheduled for a rotation at Penn and now want to apply to this program?

That is no problem at all, but we still need you to complete the specific PSOM VSLO application for this program (sometimes there are a few additional items required, and often a different

selection committee). If you are accepted for this funded visiting clerkship program, then we'll take care of things internally to switch you over.

6. Does my letter of support have to come from an attending physician in a specific field?

Students are encouraged to have an attending physician in the specialty to which they are pursuing complete the letter. We also know that some students have not yet rotated in a specific field or may not have connected with a faculty member who can write a letter by the time of the application deadline. If that is the case, then please have an attending who knows you and who can speak in strong support of you write the letter.

7. Am I guaranteed an interview if I am accepted to this program?

Interview selection is separate from participation in this program. Some of our participating specialties will invite all students accepted to the Visiting Clerkship Program to interview.

8. How are funds disbursed for this rotation?

Each specialty decides on the amount and manner in which they financially support students. Students must complete the rotation, after which either reimbursement for expenses during the rotation (travel, housing, visiting student rotation fee) or a stipend (please note that stipends are taxed) is sent. The amount is \$1500-2000 depending on the program. Documentation such as a W9, spending receipts, and possible additional forms will be collected by each Program Coordinator by the last week/week after the rotation is completed.

9. Does the program arrange or offer housing?

We do not have direct housing provision through this program. Students are encouraged to utilize resources on the PSOM Registrar's website for Visiting Students: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/student/application-and-dates.html> (scroll down to "Short-term Housing Opportunities). Past program participants have also utilized multi-week Airbnb reservations or gotten in touch with members of SNMA and LMSA at the Perelman School of Medicine who may have space available.