The Cost of Applying for a Medical Residency

While the costs associated with securing a residency may be a relatively minor part of your medical education expenses, they can add up quickly. Since these fees may not be covered by student loans, it is important to try and keep these costs under control. Typical costs are summarized below.

Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)

ERAS®—The Electronic Residency Application Service—transmits residency applications, letters of recommendation, MSPE (Medical Student Performance Evaluation), transcripts, and other supporting credentials from applicants and medical schools to residency and fellowship programs using the Internet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Programs Per Specialty</th>
<th>ERAS Fees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to 10</td>
<td>$95</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-20</td>
<td>$10 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-30</td>
<td>$16 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 or more</td>
<td>$26 each</td>
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MyERAS, the site where you complete your residency application, automatically calculates your fees. For additional details, including application process guidelines and a list of participating programs and specialties, please visit ERAS.

Interview-Related Costs

Most of the costs related to securing a residency will no doubt be associated with interviewing. In addition to travel and accommodations, there are incidental expenses for which you must budget—everything from the cost of cabs, to your attire and meals. If you need a loan to assist with these expenses, check with your Financial Aid Office to see what options may be available to you.

There are ways to save money with some of these expenses. For example:
- While traveling, keep your meal selections frugal.
- If you need to purchase new interview attire, try to keep expenditures modest.
- Research the city/location you’ll be visiting to help budget transportation costs from the airport or hotel to the hospital site.
- Check to see if shuttle services are available that can help mitigate the cost of an expensive cab ride.
- If possible, try to coordinate accommodations with other medical students, sleep in residents’ quarters, or stay in the homes of those who graduated from your medical school and now live in the area. Check with the AMA Alliance for assistance.

They can help students cut down on interviewing costs, provide an opportunity to get to know the community surrounding a potential residency program, and introduce students to the local medical society and alliance. As you plan your budget for this stage of your medical education, keep in mind travel and lodging costs to sit for the USMLE Step II Clinical Skills Exam.

National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)

The NRMP, is a private, not-for-profit corporation that provides a uniform date of appointment to positions in graduate medical education (GME) in the United States. The fee is $65 for the first 20 programs. You can review the current schedule of dates for NRMP matches, learn how the matching algorithm works, and more by visiting the NRMP website.

Travel Tips

Visit SmartMedTravel.com. This is a site developed by two recent medical school graduates in response to travel costs related to the interview process. While the AAMC does not endorse this site, you may find the information helpful.