Frequently Asked Questions – Residency & Fellowship Applicants

A. General Information

1. When does the residency/fellowship academic year start?

The 2027–2028 academic year begins on June 14, 2027. Mandatory GME Orientation Week for incoming residents is scheduled for June 7–11, 2027.

2. When can I apply for the 2027–2028 academic year?

The online application period is October 26 to November 20, 2026. Applications must be submitted within this period.

3. Are there tuition fees for residency and fellowship programs?

No. Residents and fellows do not pay tuition fees and receive a monthly stipend. For information about financial support and benefits, please refer to the **Current Residents** section of our website.

4. Can international medical graduates apply?

Yes. Non-AUB MD graduates may apply provided they meet the published eligibility requirements, including graduation from a medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (WDOMS), the applicable examinations, and English language proficiency requirements.

B. Online Application and Required Documents

5. Can I apply to more than one residency program?

Applicants may apply to a maximum of two residency programs. Each application must be submitted separately.

The first application submitted is considered the first-choice program, and the second application is considered the second-choice program. Only one application fee is required.

If accepted into both programs, the applicant will automatically be assigned to the first-choice program and withdrawn from the second-choice program.

6. What are the application and examination fees?

The following fees apply for the 2027–2028 admission cycle:

Application / Examination	Fee
Application Fee	USD 100
IFOM Basic Science Examination (BSE)	USD 200
IFOM Clinical Science Examination (CSE)	USD 200
GME Residency Admission Examination	USD 100
GME Fellowship Admission Examination	USD 100

Applicants are required to pay only the examination fees applicable to their admission requirements.

7. Can I change my program choices after submitting my application?

No. Program choices are final once submitted. Changes, substitutions, or switching between first and second choices are not permitted.

8. Can I submit my application if some documents or examination results are still pending?

Yes. Applicants may submit their applications during the application period, from October 26 to November 20, 2026, and upload any pending documents or examination results by the specified deadline.

The deadline for submitting pending documents for the 2027–2028 residency admissions cycle is **January 8, 2027**.

Failure to submit the required documents by the deadline may result in the application being considered incomplete and ineligible for review.

9. Do I need to submit original documents when applying?

No. Applicants must upload the required documents through the online application system.

Original documents are not required at the application stage. Accepted applicants will receive instructions regarding the submission of original documents, either in person or by courier.

10. Are letters of recommendation required?

Non-AUB MD residency applicants are required to submit three letters of reference from faculty members, including academic contact information.

Applicants should review the published reference letter guidelines before submitting their applications.

11. Is a personal statement required?

Certain residency programs, including Emergency Medicine, Neurology, and Psychiatry, may require a personal statement.

Applicants should not upload a personal statement with their online application unless otherwise instructed. It should be submitted to the program only when requested following an interview invitation.

12. How can I confirm that my application was successfully submitted?

Once applicants complete the online application and pay the application fee, they will receive a payment confirmation email, which serves as confirmation that their application has been successfully submitted.

Please note that the confirmation email may take some time to arrive. Applicants are advised to **allow up to 24 hours** to receive it.

If the confirmation email is not received within 24 hours, please contact the GME Office at **gme_adm@aub.edu.lb**.

13. Can I apply for a residency transfer from another institution?

Applicants requesting a residency transfer must fulfill the applicable admission requirements and submit additional documents, including a release letter from their current Program Director, where applicable, and a residency verification letter detailing their training and current standing.

These documents should be uploaded under **Other Documents** in the online application.

C. Residency Examination Requirements

14. Which examinations are required for residency admission?

Residency applicants must fulfill the following three examination requirements:

- **Basic Science:** USMLE Step 1 or IFOM Basic Science Examination (IFOM BSE).
- **Clinical Knowledge:** USMLE Step 2 CK or IFOM Clinical Science Examination (IFOM CSE).
- **Additional Mandatory Examination:** GME Residency Admission Examination.

The GME Residency Admission Examination is required in addition to the applicable Basic Science and Clinical Knowledge examinations.

15. Is the GME Residency Admission Examination mandatory if I have already passed USMLE Step 2 CK or IFOM CSE?

Yes. All residency applicants must complete the GME Residency Admission Examination, including those who have already passed USMLE Step 2 CK or IFOM CSE.

Passing either examination does not exempt an applicant from the new GME Residency Admission Examination.

16. What is the format and duration of the GME Residency Admission Examination?

The GME Residency Admission Examination is a **2.5-hour examination** designed to assess applicants' clinical knowledge. It is similar in scope to the IFOM CSE and same study material.

Further details regarding the examination will be communicated to registered applicants before the exam date.

17. Can I apply using IFOM examinations instead of USMLE?

Yes. Applicants may fulfill the Basic Science requirement through IFOM BSE and the Clinical Knowledge requirement through IFOM CSE, provided they meet the applicable minimum scores.

The additional GME Residency Admission Examination remains mandatory.

18. What are the minimum examination requirements?

Examination	Minimum Requirement
USMLE Step 1	Pass
IFOM BSE	Equated Percent Correct Score of 60
USMLE Step 2 CK	Applicable official passing standard
IFOM CSE	Equated Percent Correct Score of 70
GME Residency Admission Examination	70th percentile

For USMLE examinations, the applicable passing standard depends on the examination date.

19. How do I register for the IFOM examinations and GME Residency Admission Examination?

Applicants must first complete and submit their online application and pay the application fee.

Following successful submission and payment, applicants will receive an email containing the examination registration link.

The examination registration period is **October 26 to November 20, 2026**. Applicants must register within the specified period.

20. Can I register for IFOM examinations without applying to a residency program?

No. IFOM examinations administered through the GME Office are intended for applicants to residency programs.

The GME Office does not operate as a general IFOM testing center.

21. What are the residency examination dates for 2027–2028 admissions?

Examination	Date
IFOM BSE	December 2 and 3, 2026
IFOM CSE	December 8, 10, and 14, 2026
GME Residency Admission Examination	December 16 and 17, 2026

Applicants will receive detailed examination instructions by email before their scheduled examination.

22. Are the application and examination fees refundable?

No. **The application fee and all examination fees are non-refundable.**

Applicants are advised to carefully review the admission requirements, examination eligibility, and registration details before making any payments.

23. Can I retake the IFOM BSE or IFOM CSE?

According to NBME regulations, the following maximum number of attempts applies:

- **IFOM BSE:** Applicants may take the examination a maximum of two times per year.
- **IFOM CSE:** Applicants may take the examination a maximum of three times per year. However, as per **GME Office requirements**, a minimum interval of four months between attempts must be observed.

All examination results must be submitted by the deadline specified by the GME Office.

24. Are examination results considered during residency selection?

Yes. Examination results may form part of the overall residency selection process.

The IFOM BSE is a qualifying examination and is not considered a competitive examination for admission purposes.

D. Fellowship Admissions

25. Which examination is required for fellowship applicants?

Fellowship applicants who are not Board Certified are required to take the applicable **GME Fellowship Admission Examination**, according to the fellowship admission requirements.

Applicants who already hold an accepted Board Certification may qualify for an exemption.

26. Are all Board Certifications accepted for examination exemption?

No. Not all Board Certifications qualify applicants for exemption from the fellowship admission examination.

Applicants are advised to contact the GME Office to verify their eligibility for exemption before applying.

27. Is an elective rotation at GME postgraduate training programs mandatory before applying?

Elective rotations at GME postgraduate training are generally not mandatory, although applicants are encouraged to complete a rotation in the department or division to which they are applying.

An elective rotation is mandatory for applicants to the following fellowship programs:

- Neonatology
- Gastroenterology
- Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Diseases

Applicants should arrange required rotations in advance.

E. English Language Proficiency

28. Who is exempt from the English language proficiency requirement?

The following applicants are exempt from the English language proficiency requirement:

- AUB graduates.
- Current or former AUB residents.
- Graduates who completed both their bachelor's and MD degrees at the University of Balamand, Lebanese American University, or Saint George University of Beirut.
- Graduates of recognized institutions in North America, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand.

Applicants who do not qualify for an exemption must submit a passing score on one of the approved English language proficiency examinations.

29. How do I register for the AUB English Entrance Examination?

Applicants wishing to take the AUB English Entrance Examination must contact the **AUB Testing Center** directly.

The GME Office does not handle registration for this examination.

30. Can I submit my English proficiency results after submitting my application?

Yes, provided the required results are submitted by the deadline specified by the GME Office.

For the 2027–2028 residency admission cycle, the deadline to submit pending documents is **January 8, 2027**.

F. Interviews, Selection, and Enrollment

31. Does meeting all eligibility requirements guarantee an interview?

No. Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee an interview or acceptance.

Eligible applications are forwarded to the respective programs, which review applications and select candidates for interviews based on their selection criteria.

32. Can I request an online interview if I live outside Lebanon?

Interviews for applicants residing outside Lebanon may be conducted through teleconference or videoconference, subject to the program's arrangements.

Local applicants are generally expected to attend interviews in person.

33. Are additional assessments required during the selection process?

Certain programs may require additional assessments, such as Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs).

Applicants will be informed by the respective programs if additional assessments are required.

34. When will applicants receive admission decisions?

For the 2027–2028 residency admission cycle, decision notifications are expected around late April 2027, following GME Committee approval.

35. Can I withdraw after accepting an offered residency or fellowship position?

Applicants who accept a residency or fellowship position and sign the applicable residency or fellowship agreement but subsequently withdraw will be ineligible to reapply to AUB GME programs in the future.

Applicants should carefully consider their decision before formally accepting a position.

G. Contact and Further Inquiries

36. Where can I find detailed information about the application process?

Applicants are encouraged to review the **Application Forms** section of the GME website for admission requirements, examination information, required documents, and application procedures.

For further inquiries, please email **gme_adm@aub.edu.lb**.

Telephone inquiries regarding residency and fellowship applications are handled Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.