

Recommendations to AKU Alumni in NA regarding AKUMC Medical Student Elective Requests: AKUAANA Position Statement

IMPETUS: Many AKU Alumni in NA, across all specialties, supervise or advise AKUMC students undertaking elective placements. Electives form part of medical curricula on a worldwide scale.

AKUAANA has identified a gap in medical students' understanding of behavior ethics and etiquettes for electives. Medical student electives in NA afford many known benefits. Therefore, a process that benefits both AKU alumni and AKUMC students is needed to make this a meaningful experience.

AIM: The aim is to provide guidelines to AKU Alumni in NA, to inform AKUMC medical students, and create a partnership between AKUAANA and AKU Electives Office, to assist medical students in understanding etiquettes when requesting electives.

PROCESS: This position statement is a result of the formation of the AKUAANA Electives Committee to draft a set of recommendations, drawing on the reported experiences of AKU Alumni in NA, feedback from AKUMC students and the AKU Electives Office. The final recommendations are also based on the survey data received that was completed by 4th and 5th year AKUMC students, and consultative process between the AKUAANA Executive Council and the AKUAANA Electives Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The recommendations consolidate the result of feedback from the AKUMC students, AKU Alumni in NA, the AKU Electives Office, a presentation at AKU by a member of the AKUAANA Electives Committee, and the Electives Office at two academic institutes in the USA.

This resulted in 10 recommendations.

CONCLUSION: We believe developing a policy on electives in NA for AKUMC students who reach out to AKU Alumni for this experience, will provide a basis for an accountable, and more structured approach to a medical elective with the additional benefit of mentoring and career guidance opportunity. This will provide a more unique and creating experience for the medical students, be it in research or clinical electives, valued by all participants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All AKUMC student correspondence to AKU Alumni in NA for clinical/research electives, should include the AKU Electives Office (Amin Keashwani: amin.keashwani@aku.edu)
2. Initial correspondence should be brief, and include goals pertaining to the elective, and a curriculum vitae.
3. AKUMC students should follow all application guidelines for the institution or the type of electives requested and provide requested documents to the AKU Alumnus.
4. It is the responsibility of the students to keep the AKU Alumnus faculty informed of their completed applications, and any change in plans as soon as possible.
5. In case of a student not showing up for a committed electives, the AKU Alumnus will notify the AKU Electives Office.
6. AKU Alumni should take opportunity from the first correspondence to provide feedback and guidance to AKUMC students.
7. Before starting the specific elective, mentoring alumni and students will establish goals and objectives pertaining to it.
8. Alumni will remind students of behavior ethics and etiquettes during their electives.
9. Alumni will provide an honest feedback mid-rotation and at the end of the rotation.
10. AKU Alumni should reach out to the AKUAANA Electives Committee for any issues or concerns pertaining to the AKUMC students and/or electives process at AKU.

Compiled in May, 2018 by the AKUAANA Executive Council (Namirah Jamshed '96, Habib Chotani '95, Noor Afshan Khan '96, Faisal Cheema, '00) on behalf of the AKUAANA Electives Committee (Ali Thaver '11, Sameer Ur Rehman '11, Eesha Khan '13, Haider Warraich '09, Majid Shafiq '06)