

How to Stand Out as an Immigrant in Residency Application

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Summary

- The purpose of this poster is to present strategies that immigrants can use to improve their residency application in the United States.
- Cultural competency, applying in specific locations, language competencies, and unique experiences can improve residency application success rates among immigrants.

Introduction

- The residency application process for IMGs is often complex and rigorous.¹
- The application process takes longer and is unpredictable, with a 60% success rate among the applicants.¹
- Approximately 7,000 non-United States IMGs and 5,000 United States IMGs apply for residency every year. 1,2
- The IMGs residency application can be challenging for immigrants.



Methods

- A review of the literature was conducted to identify some of the strategies that immigrants can use to improve their success rates in residency application.
- Other than conventional factors such as academic performance, clinical experience, and professional qualifications, specific strategies for improving residency application among immigrants were sought.



Results

1. **Demonstrating cultural competencies:** Cultural diversity competencies are needed to provide care for underserved communities that might be sharing the same culture as the applicant.^{3,4}

2. Applying to specific locations.

IMGs tend to apply for programs in multicultural areas having large immigrant populations where they become part of the community.⁵

3. Demonstrating language skills:

The immigrant applicant should highlight their language skills, including fluency in other Languages besides English, to improve their chances of success

- 4. Highlighting unique experience:
 As an immigrant, you might have a unique experience from other applicants.
- 5. Networking with program directors and residents: Attend conferences and other networking events to improve professional collaboration with program directors and residents.
- 6. Utilizing organizations' resources: Some medical schools and other organizations offer resources and support for immigrant applicants.
- 7. Education level: Pursuing a Ph.D or Master's also improves residency application.

Conclusions

- Demonstrating cultural diversity and competencies, identifying specific locations to apply, demonstrating language skills, and highlighting unique skills are added advantages that can improve residency application success rate among immigrants.
- Additionally, networking and utilizing organizations' resources can increase the chance of succeeding in residency application among immigrants.
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