



Internal Medicine Residency Program

Frequently Asked Questions

VISITING MEDICAL STUDENTS

What makes LRH rotations unique?

- Level I Trauma Center immersion for high-acuity, critical-care experience.
- One of the nation's busiest emergency departments and hospitals, offering an unmatched range of pathology and clinical experiences.
- AI-enhanced Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) devices – you scan at the bedside from day one.

Why should I rotate in Internal Medicine at LRH?

- **98 % scholarly achievement:** most of our visiting students complete a case report, abstract, or other publication before leaving.
- **Medical-Student Academic Excellence Committee:** dedicated orientation, coaching, student events, and feedback.
- **Integrated community & wellness:** be exposed to our resident wellness events, simulation labs, and social outings throughout the block.
- **Central-Florida lifestyle:** easy weekend trips to Tampa, Orlando, beaches, and theme parks.

How do I apply for a rotation?

- Fourth-year students apply through AAMC **VSLO**.
- **Click Here to Apply:** <https://gme.mylrh.org/medical-students/>
- More Questions? Email Us at IMresidency@myLRH.org

When should I apply to VSLO for a rotation at LRH?

Our VSLO portal opens at the end of April, and we host up to **five fourth-year medical students per month** on our Internal Medicine service. These spots are highly competitive and tend to be claimed quickly each year. We strongly encourage early application, as most students secure their rotations by **mid-to-late summer**.

Will rotating at LRH increase my chances of getting an interview?

Rotating allows us to work together and enables you to experience our culture. Interviews are not guaranteed, but many current residents first impressed us as LRH rotators. Strong on-site performance can strengthen your application.

I have no research or publication experience—can I still participate in research?

Absolutely. Last year, the program produced more than 200 scholarly projects, many with visiting students (case reports, QI projects, even book chapters). Residents in the **IM Medical-Student Academic Excellence Committee** will help you get started.

Do I need prior experience with POCUS?

No. Medical students get a hands-on POCUS workshop in the first weeks of the rotation.

Is housing in Lakeland affordable?

Yes. Polk County is one of Florida's fastest-growing areas, largely because of its low cost of living. Median home prices and average rents sit well below state and national averages. Many residents live minutes from the hospital; others choose to commute minutes from Tampa or Orlando for city amenities while benefiting from Lakeland's unique gadgets.

Is on-site housing available or are there recommended hotels nearby?

While we do not offer on-campus housing, we provide a curated list of local accommodations where past visiting students have stayed comfortably. These include extended-stay hotels, short-term rentals, and furnished apartments—many of which are within a 10-minute drive of the hospital.

Can I split my rotation between inpatient and outpatient weeks?

Yes. A blended schedule can be arranged if requested at least six weeks in advance.

After completing my core Internal Medicine sub-internship, can I stay to do a subspecialty elective like Critical Care?

Yes, students who complete their sub-internship are welcome to apply for an additional subspecialty elective, including Critical Care. These electives are offered on a limited basis and tend to fill quickly, so we strongly encourage early application and clear communication with our medical education office to coordinate availability.

What letters of recommendation can I expect?

Students who complete a full four-week rotation and demonstrate professionalism receive individualized evaluations; strong performers often secure a program leadership LOR from either core faculty, APD, and/or PD.

Can international medical graduates (IMGs) rotate at LRH?

Yes. However, for IMGs, unlike a four-week rotation, we offer a one-week observership designed for international medical graduates (IMGs) to gain exposure to U.S. health systems and receive faculty feedback. **Click Here to Apply:** <https://gme.mylrh.org/medical-students/>