



DAANA Grant Program for DCMS Alumni

Rationale for proposal: Graduates of DCMS make substantial efforts to pursue graduate medical education in USA. Many graduates have limited financial and other resources as they continue to hustle and engage in activities to increase their chances of matching. Furthermore, the application process and the interviews pose a financial burden on graduates who typically have no definite source of income. Many graduates cannot maximize opportunities because of limited financial recourses. Graduates of USA medical schools are eligible for US bank loans to cover these costs. This is not available for graduates of DCMS.

Objective: One of the core objectives of Deccan Alumni Association of North America (DAANA) is to support DCMS graduates who are applying for residency in the USA. This support includes financial assistance to deserving candidates to cover travel expenses, boarding & lodging, application fees and other related expenses.

Scope: All graduates of DCMS.

Utilization of funds: The funds will apply specifically to costs directly related to:

1. Activities aimed at increasing scholarly credibility or research productivity with intention to build CV
2. Activities related to application for residency and interviews

Costs covered:

1. Travel expenses – economy airfare, hotel, lodging, car rental
2. Application fees associated with observership/electives or similar programs
3. ERAS/ECFMG application fees including fees per program
4. Interview related expenses - economy airfare, hotel, lodging, car rental

Grant specifics:

Interest free grants will be provided at a maximum of \$2000 per candidate.

The loan will be issued by DAANA treasurer or other authorized BOD officer and will be in the form of a check or prepaid debit card. Receipts of eligible expenses are expected to be submitted by the beneficiary of the grant.

It is expected that the candidate pay back the grant within 36 months of starting residency. Although no legal terms and conditions will be applied to the grant if the loan is not repaid, the candidate is expected to furnish reasons explaining the above.

Acknowledgement: The grant is a gesture of support provided by the alumni of DCMS who are committed to supporting the future generation of graduates of DCMS. The timely repayment of the loan will provide further funds to make a greater impact and support others in need.

Vetting: The funds are currently limited. In order to identify suitable and deserving candidates DAANA has developed a process through which each application will be objectively assessed for eligibility, credibility of the candidate and financial need.

A vetting committee will be formed to evaluate each application. The committee will include four individuals from the mentorship committee and three members from the BOD. The acceptance, amount of loan and distribution of the loan will be at the sole discretion of the committee.

Note: This vetting process needs to be carefully done. The program should support all credible and eligible candidates with limitations set only by the amount of available funds. Candidates with low USMLE scores or no research productivity should not be automatically disqualified. It is obvious that that many competitive residency candidates are not good exam takers and may have not acquired research accomplishments solely because of financial limitations. The process of vetting should non-biased and aimed at supporting the candidates through added resources.

Eligibility:

1. Must be a DCMS graduate
2. Must be residing in the USA on a legal visa
3. Preferably ECFMG certified or eligible (completed Step 1 and Step 2 of USMLE)
4. Must not have received this grant in the past
5. Must complete application in full:
 1. Name:
 2. Batch:
 3. Address/Phone#:
 4. Current CV
 5. ERAS #
 6. USMLE scores and number of attempts / transcripts

- Step 1
 - Step 2
 - CS
 - Step 3
7. US clinical experience
 8. Research experience
 9. Work experience
 10. Specialty of interest
 11. Personal statement describing efforts related to increasing chances of matching residency, future goals, and financial need
 12. Two references from among DCMS alumni who can vouch for the candidate regarding academic qualifications as well as financial need

Feasibility: DAANA is accepting donations from its members and outside donors to support this cause.

Accounting: This will be managed by a team appointed by the vetting committee who will report periodically to the treasurer and BOD. This reporting is necessary for non-profit status. The location and transactions related to the accounts/funds are TBD and will be managed by the BOD.

Grant Review Committee: Dr. Sameer Mohammed, Dr. Farha Ikramuddin, Dr. Fawad Khan, Dr. Mohammed Aslam Ahmed, Dr. Mohammed Moizuddin, Dr. Baseer Qazi and Dr. Jabeen Taj.

Approved by DAANA BOD and Mentorship Committee

August 17, 2017