

Personal Statement/Letter of Intent for Away Rotations & Away Rotation Letter of Recommendation

Career and Professional Advisors
University of Arizona, College of Medicine—Phoenix

While expectations for an Away rotation personal statement are quite varied and site-specific, that does not diminish their importance. Please craft and polish these personal statements with as much attention to detail as you would for your ERAS application.

OUTLINE

VLSO PS

Paragraph 1: Who you are

Paragraph 2: Why are you choosing to rotate in this specialty and/or this specific rotation

Paragraph 3: Why do you want to do a rotation at this specific program

Please pay attention to the program specific VLSO prompt and/or character/space limitation.

This above is different than your ERAS PS. Your ERAS PS should be maximum one page.

ERAS PS

Paragraph 1: Why medicine +/-

Paragraph 2: Why you choose this specialty and possibly how

Paragraph 3: Why you are special/weave in some of your activities/med school interests into your specialty of interest

Paragraph 4: Why this program and/or geographic region and what you are looking for in a program? I am looking for a program that will provide me...

FOR VSLO:

DO

- Highlight why you chose the specialty and why you are interested in rotating at their site
- Share what makes you unique, and why you are a great candidate
- Keep the length under one page
- Double-check grammar and spelling
- Minimize clichés, dictionary definitions, quotes

DON'T

- Just update your medical school application personal statement
- Focus too much on the past; make sure to address future goals
- Make this a creative writing or English Lit. assignment
- Tell them details about their program, or what an anesthesiologist is, for example. Make this about why you want to rotate at their program or why you want to be an anesthesiologist.

Please review the following ILM on creating a personal statement:

<https://arizona.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=941df797-6c01-4559-a7ff-ab9c0114e19f>

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VSLO LOR

1. Follow all requirements on the program specific VSLO site
 - a. Example- if it says you need a Chair LOR or a LOR specifically from someone in that field
 - b. Letters need to be from attendings (not residents)
2. Ask your letter writer early and provide a copy of your CV and your VSLO PS/Letter of intent
3. If it does not specify who the letter needs to be from, consider:
 - a. Asking someone who knows you both clinically and personally
 - b. If you did not work with an attending too long but worked with the residents on that team, you can ask the residents if they would be willing to provide feedback to the attending. If the residents are willing to do so, you can share this information with the attending.

The goal is that you have all documentation, including vaccinations, PS, and LOR ready for upload on the first day that the away rotation accepts applications. Many of these away rotation acceptances will occur on a rolling basis, so the earlier you apply, the better chance you will have at securing an away in the time slot which you want.