Sketch: Research

Based on our experience, the Research section is where many students take the most liberty in including information that doesn't align with the OMSAS instructions. Students have included research-type information in this section and have been accepted to one of the medical schools.

The first point on this slide is from OMSAS under the Research category. So take a moment to read it.

When we met with an Admissions staff member from the University of Toronto it was suggested that applicants include anything they feel is significant for this category including in-progress and submitted research. It was recommended that you don't include a research report that you completed for a course because everyone will have that. Publications will be ranked differently (higher) than non-completed/published work, but it is still valuable to see what an applicant has been producing in a research environment. Toronto isn't screening for research (so applicants are not ranked higher if they have it. Also, they don't expect publications from undergrad students.

Research positions that are volunteer/paid/part of grad training can be included.

This is a screen shot of the Research category.

The top block is populated from the top layer of the sketch.

A verifier is needed.

List the level of education you had or were in while completing the research.

List the title of the Project.

For the Type of publication section, if your publication has been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal mention that. Journal publications are the best form of research. If you were the first author on a publication which makes a big difference, mention it. Mention the type of journal as some are more reputable than others. Specify the stage you are at with your publication (e.g., accepted, published, etc.). It can take 1 to 3 years to get published. The OMSAS instructions state not to use (OR INCLUDE) "submitted or in preparation"; however, as stated many students have included that type of information and have been accepted into med school.

Under the "My role" section use action verbs to describe your role, responsibilities, accomplishments, etc. Try to use words that are research focused.

Under the employment section it states: list research positions which are part of graduate training or honours program in the research section, if significant or published; NSERC summer students should be listed under awards and employment.

If you are not applying this year, it is a good idea to get research experience. You could apply for an NSERC USRA. You need 80% minimum in your previous 2 years. This award can be held at any university

in Canada. Students complete this application. There is also the UW-URI which is administered through CECA. Professors complete that application.