

Question:

I was wondering if you could provide me with some guidance regarding requesting letters of recommendation from my current placement supervisors. My placement wraps up on Tuesday, and I was hoping to ask them to write me letters for future jobs, but I wasn't sure if this was inappropriate and if perhaps I should wait.

Answer:

Regarding recommendation letters - most supervisors are hit up very soon after a placement ends. They are used to these solicitations and often can't handle all of the requests. In all things job search, my goal is to be "memorable" in the sense of giving others the impression that I am "a stand-out" who goes beyond the expected.

Therefore, when it comes to asking for letters, I prefer to wait....and instead request a 10-minute meeting on my last day **to thank** the supervisor and give him/her a rundown of **why the placement was so valuable** to me, i.e. what I learned, what made the placement different from others, what challenges it presented me.

After the gratitude part I would then ask if I could keep in touch with him/her in order to keep her up-to-date on how I am progressing in the program and in what ways I am using what I learned on her clinical. I would close with asking if she has any advice for me as I approach my (CF, immersion, year-long placement, NP, RN, PCA) search.

This approach has proven much more effective because it helps to deepen the relationship and makes me memorable. If I am true to my word and follow-up with her every few weeks, she will remember me in her daily routine – getting me closer to the precious "hidden jobs."

You can always ask for a letter later, if needed. And by then, your relationship with her would have progressed enough to yield a much more meaningful letter!