

Information and Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellowship Match

The Pediatric Anesthesia Program Directors Association, under the sponsorship of the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia, has used the NRMP Match process since 2013. More than 85% of fellowship positions are committed to the Match. The Match is offered in response to feedback from both trainees and programs.

General Calendar:

December 1: ERAS opens for reviewing fellowships, completing a common fellowship application, acquiring a letters of reference file and associated materials to complete an ERAS application file.

February onwards: Program directors (varying timelines) begin application review and make interview offers. Programs have committed to reviews and interview dates through at least June 2018. However, it is best to apply as soon as you are decided.

May 31-ERAS closes to new applications. Enter applications before this date into ERAS. After May 31, please contact individual programs to see if they are still accepting applications and to obtain an application.

June: The NRMP site opens for registration of both residents and programs

August: Applicants and programs can begin submitting their rank lists

September: Final Rank Lists must be submitted to the NRMP (see nrmp.org for exact dates)

October: Match Day (see nrmp.org for exact dates)

FAQ's

[Where can I go to learn more about the Pediatric Anesthesiology Match?](#)

The NRMP (NRMP.org) and ERAS (www.aamc.org/services/eras/) will post details about the Match, including a timeline, on their websites. The Society for Pediatric Anesthesia (SPA), and Society for Academic Anesthesiology Associations (SAAA) websites will also have information and links. New since 2018 is the use by many programs of ERAS as a central application resource to simplify the process. Programs not participating in ERAS for applications will have application instructions on their websites; many will accept a common fellowship application and should have a link on their website.

Who is eligible to enter the Fellowship Match, and when is this occurring?

The Match is for current CA-2 trainees (or equivalent) or anyone who will have completed anesthesia residency and be ready to enter fellowship in the summer 12-18 months away from the ERAS application submission. Note that many fellowships are now starting on August 1 to allow time for Advanced ABA Exam studying and moving prior to start of fellowship.

When can I begin the Application Process?

ERAS has information online about the application process, and links to websites for all participating programs. All programs are listed with participation status noted at the following ERAS site (https://services.aamc.org/eras/erasstats/par/display.cfm?NAV_ROW=PAR&SP_EC_CD=042).

If a program is not participating in ERAS, it is noted on the ERAS site, and you can obtain application instructions at individual fellowship website. If you elect to apply without ERAS, you need to contact fellowships individually to learn if they will accept alternative routes.

I am a month (or two, or three) off the academic cycle due to approved leave, so I will finish residency after June 30. Am I still eligible to participate in the Match?

You may be able to participate. Please check with the programs you are interested in BEFORE you spend money on ERAS/NRMP and commit to interviews. Individual programs may or may not accommodate a delayed start date. Many programs have elected to have both a July and an August start

date. Some programs have a strict July 1 start. Keep in mind that NRMP policy is based on a July 1 start date; your submission of a rank list and offer acceptance is predicated on your ability to start within the program's start date/time frame. In the event you match to a program and can't honor the start date, the program can receive a waiver and withdraw the position. *It is best to inquire with individual programs ASAP.*

When can I start interviewing?

Residents can begin interviewing anytime a program offers a date. It is OK to interview for a Match position before registering with the NRMP -but if you accept an invitation, you are expected to register once NRMP opens the match. Residents who wish/need to secure a position outside the Match should not accept an interview if the program indicates that all available positions are within the Match, at least not without further discussion with the program.

How late can I wait to interview for a Match slot?

The Match rank lists must be submitted by applicants and programs in September. Programs have agreed to continue to review applications and make interview dates available through at least June; some accept applications through September. Apply as soon as you decide to pursue a fellowship.

I really want (need) to have a decision before October – what can I do?

Some programs may have the ability to accommodate special circumstances- you need to inquire at each program. Program directors have agreed not to withdraw their committed spots from the Match. Programs may be willing to tell you that they will “rank you to match”, although they are not permitted to require a response from you.

Why do we need a Match?

Anesthesia residents (through the resident sections of ASA) asked the subspecialty fellowship to create a Match process. This process gives residents the opportunity to interview at any programs they are interested in without pressure (or perceived pressure) from the programs to decide before they have had a chance to finish interviewing.

How were the Match calendar dates chosen?

Setting a common calendar of opening and closing dates was a difficult compromise, and ultimately was chosen to allow enough time for state licensure for particularly “slow states.” In addition, we tried to balance the desire for an early decision with protecting the process for residents whose exposure to pediatric anesthesia is later in the CA-2 year.

What are my costs for the Match?

The residents’ NRMP fee are listed at <http://www.nrmp.org/match-fees/>
The fees change periodically, and it is best to check the website.

What happens if I register for the Match, but then accept a position outside the Match?

If you decide to accept a position offered outside the Match, you can do so even if you have already registered for the Match. However, you MUST withdraw from the NRMP Match, and you should do so in a timely manner. You should also notify the other programs where you interviewed of your decision.

What happens if I change my mind about the fellowship after the Match?

The Match is a binding commitment. Accepting a spot makes the position unavailable to others, and a withdrawal creates significant problems for the fellowship program. If you do not intend to accept your matched position, you must request a waiver from the NRMP. If the waiver is denied and you do not accept the matched positions, the NRMP may apply sanctions, including barring you from future matches. In addition, you may be ineligible to apply in other fellowship specialties, and your medical school may be notified and be requested to keep your match violation on permanent file. The Program Director of your Matched fellowship cannot release you; it must go through the NRMP waiver process.

I want to apply to other subspecialty fellowships (pain, critical care, OB and cardiac) as well; can I do this?

You should not enter the Pediatric Anesthesia Match if you are undecided

about your subspecialty interest. You will be unable to register for and participate in subspecialty matches that run concurrent to the Pediatric Anesthesia Match. Also, the Match imposes a binding commitment to accept the position if you match. Failure to obtain a waiver in order to pursue a different subspecialty constitutes a breach of contract and will be investigated by the NRMP, and by the earlier SF match. Such behavior is unfair to the fellowship programs and to other applicants.

Is there a “Couple’s Match”?

Yes, but only if both partners are in the Pediatric Anesthesia Match. However, many Program Directors will work with you and your partner’s subspecialty Program Director to give you advice. You should let programs know if you are trying to obtain positions in the same city.

What are my options if I decide on Pediatric Anesthesia late and miss the Match dates?

You may find that there are unmatched slots still available. Most programs post these on the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia website in the fellowship section (https://www2.pedsanesthesia.org/fellowships_available.iphtml). Withdrawals and new positions are usually posted. Some programs offer mid-year starting positions. Your current residency program director or the pediatric fellowship director at your institution may have additional advice.

What happens if I commit in the Match to a July 1 position, then need a delayed start?

You will need to speak with the Program Director. A delayed start may be possible within the academic year; however, one-year deferrals to the next academic year require waiver approval from the NRMP. It is important to communicate at the earliest possible time with the fellowship director should this need arise.