

Frequently Asked Questions:

The NRMP Match for Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellowship

The selection process for prospective fellows in Molecular Genetic Pathology switched to the NRMP Pathology Fellowship Match for positions in **2027**. Other Pathology subspecialties participating in the NRMP Match include Hematopathology, Forensic Pathology, Bone and Soft Tissue Pathology. Other subspecialties in Pathology are considering the Match.

1. Now that we have agreed to participate in the Match, what happens next?

Below is an approximate timeline of events:

- a. **Fall 2025:** applicants are encouraged to submit applications to their programs of your choice before **January 1, 2026**.
- b. You can begin interviewing applicants starting **January 1, 2026**.
- c. **February 4, 2026** at noon, ET: Pathology Fellowship Match opens for registration: this is when your program signs a legally binding [Match Participation Agreement](#) with the NRMP, and also when applicants can begin registering for the Match.
- d. **March 11, 2026** at noon, ET: Ranking opens.
- e. **April 1, 2026** at 11:59 PM, ET: Quota Change Deadline (Quota is the number of positions your program intends to fill in the Match. Programs must withdraw by the deadline or make any change to their number of positions in the Match).
- f. **April 15, 2026** at noon, ET: Rank Order List Certification Deadline (for you and for applicants). Rank lists cannot be edited after this.
- g. **April 29, 2026** at noon, ET: Match day!
- h. **July 2027:** your new fellow(s) start

2. Do we use ERAS to receive applications for fellowship?

No, ERAS is not used for applications. For Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellowship positions, only the selection process (the Match) is being handled by a central entity (the NRMP). Each program will continue to have their own application requirements, including their application forms and required letters of reference. Many programs utilize the CAP standard fellowship application: [Standardized Application for Pathology Fellowships](#)

3. When can our program make an account with the NRMP and register for the Match?

You can make an account starting **February 4th 2026** at noon, ET, which is when your program signs a legally binding Match Participation Agreement with the NRMP.

4. How does our program make an account with the NRMP and register for the Match?
 - a. Follow this checklist, which includes a link to a video on “Institution and Program Match Process” and other resources: https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/SMS-Program-Checklist.pdf?utm_source=search_results_page&utm_campaign=nrmp_search_page&utm_term=program%20checklist
 - b. Any new programs that would like to join the Match can register directly with NRMP using the [New Program Form – NRMP Forms](#). This will ultimately require coordinating your institutional official (IO).
 - c. Instructions for activating a program can be found at can be found at: https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Activating-Programs_SMS_MRM_PD_IA.pdf
 - d. Instructions for creating a record with the R3 system can be found at: https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Adding_Program-PD.pdf
 - e. Changes in program directorship or other changes can also be made with the R3 system.

5. Will applicants be able to apply to non-Match programs?

Applicants can still apply to and interview at non-Match programs. However, they must decide whether or not to accept a position at a non-Match program before certification within the Match (**before April 15, 2026**). The Match is a binding commitment. If an applicant accepts a position at a non-Match program and does not withdraw from the NRMP Match, they will have committed a Match violation that may be disclosed to the medical school, current program director, designated institutional official, and other relevant parties.

6. May I ask applicants to disclose their interest in our program in terms of ranking preference?

Programs must not request the applicants’ ranking preference or intentions. However, applicants may voluntarily disclose their ranking preference or interest to you during the application process. Likewise, you may voluntarily

disclose your ranking preference or interest to applicants, but applicants are not permitted to request your ranking preference from you.

7. What if an applicant who matched at our program does not want to, or cannot enroll?

All programs and applicants must respect the binding nature of a match commitment and be prepared to honor the commitment if a match occurs with any program placed on a rank order list. If an applicant cannot or will not honor the commitment, a waiver or deferral must be requested from the NRMP (see link below). Waivers are granted only in cases of ineligibility, change of specialty, or unanticipated, serious, and extreme hardship.

8. Do we have to include all of our fellowship positions in the Match?

Yes. In order to have sufficient participant for a robust Match and to honor the “all-in” policy after the first Match, participating molecular genetic pathology fellowship programs must include all of their fellowship positions in the Match.

9. I have an internal applicant who I want to recruit to my MGP program. Can I offer them a position outside the Match?

No. In order to maintain the integrity and perpetuation of the fellowship match process, programs should declare and fill positions through the match process. The MGP PD should interview and rank the internal applicant in a position on their match list that guarantees placement (e.g. #1 on the list). However, it is a violation of the Match agreement to ask applicants where they are ranking the program. Furthermore, the applicant is not obligated to rank the program more favorably based on these assurances.

10. I have an internal applicant who I want to recruit to my MGP program. Can I offer them a position in the current application cycle or a future application cycle?

Yes. The MGP PD should interview the applicant and rank the internal applicant in a position on their match list that guarantees placement (e.g. #1 on the list) during the agreed upon/intended cycle. The PD should communicate clearly and confirm with the applicant the cycle that they are applying. However, it is a violation of the Match agreement to ask applicants where they are ranking the program. Furthermore, the applicant is not obligated to rank the program more favorably based on these assurances.

11. What happens if our program commits a Match violation?

Match violations are investigated by the NRMP and serious consequences can occur. These consequences can include the violations being reported to relevant entities and being barred from future Matches. See also the NRMP Violations policy section 6b below: <https://www.nrmp.org/policy/violations-policy/>

12. Where can I find more information on the Match Code of Conduct?

- a. https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NRMP-Match-Codes-of-Conduct_Applicants.pdf
- b. https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NRMP-Match-Code-of-Conduct_Programs.pdf

13. What should I do if I feel a Match Code of Conduct violation has occurred?

See the below website for reporting information:

<https://www.nrmp.org/policy/reporting-and-investigation-of-violations/>

14. How does the Match work?

https://youtu.be/cnVe_NYIVAE or scan this:

You can also view how the algorithm works at:

<https://www.nrmp.org/intro-to-thematch/how-matching-algorithm-works/>

15. What if our fellowship program does not fill all positions?

After Match Day, all programs in the Match with unfilled positions receive a list of applicants who did not Match. Applicants also receive a list of programs that did not fill. At this point, applicants can reach out directly to those programs to apply for and interview at these unfilled positions outside of the NRMP Match.

16. What are the benefits of using the NRMP Match?

The NRMP Match ensures professional standards in conduct are used in the selection of fellows. The Match will help make the Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellowship selection process more equitable and timely.

17. Where can I find a list of molecular genetic pathology fellowships participating in the match?

- a. <https://www.amp.org/education/career-development/molecular-genetic-pathology-mgp-fellowship-training-programs/>

- b. AMP will be able to link from this webpage to your personal fellowship website.
- c. AMP will promote this webpage through their social media.

18. How much does it cost for programs to register with the NRMP Match?

- a. The Institution registration fee will be \$300 per Match. Because the Institution fee is per Match, if your institution already has a program participating in the Match, there will be no additional institution registration fee for your participation.
- b. The Program registration fee will be \$100 per program track.
- c. There will be a \$75 fee per applicant matched to the program. For more information: <https://www.nrmp.org/intro-to-the-match/match-fees/>

19. Where can I find more information on the Match for Molecular Genetic Pathology?

- a. <https://www.amp.org/education/career-development/molecular-geneticpathology-mgp-fellowship-training-programs/>
- b. <https://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-applicants/>
- c. Email AMPEducation@amp.org

20. What do I tell an applicant who applies for a 2027-2028 position in my program?

- a. There is an FAQ document written for specifically for applicants on the AMP website. There are also resources available on NRMP website (see answer to question 17).
- b. Here is a possible response: “We are excited to participate in the Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellowship NRMP Match for the 2027-2028 appointment year. A list of all the programs participating in the Match can be found on the [AMP website](#). An FAQ document on the match process written for applicants is also available on that website. Please send us your application materials including {insert program specific information here}. We will be in touch to schedule interviews, which will take place starting January 2026. You will need to register for the Pathology Fellowship Match in February 2026 with the NRMP (<https://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-applicants/>) and can rank programs participating in the match with which you have interviewed.”

21. What do I do if I have questions that are specific to my molecular genetic pathology fellowship program?

- a. You can reach out directly to the NRMP for more information.
- b. Email: support@nrmp.org Toll Free: (866)653-NRMP Phone: (202)400-2233

For applicants expressing interesting more than one fellowship, please see guidance below:

I have an applicant who is interested in MGP and a second fellowship at my institution.

Questions to ask the applicant:

1. Is the applicant interested in the MGP fellowship only if they can secure the desired second fellowship?
 - If no, the MGP PD should interview and rank the applicant based on their suitability for MGP fellowship training.
 - If yes, the MGP PD will need to coordinate with the second fellowship PD to determine if this is a mutually beneficial recruitment (see below)
2. Is the applicant flexible in the order of fellowship training such that the MGP fellowship training can occur before or after the second fellowship?
 - The MGP PD should coordinate with the second fellowship PD to determine if there is a mutually beneficial recruitment timeline.

Questions to ask the second fellowship Program Director:

Scenario A: The second fellowship participates in a fellowship Match

- Will the second fellowship program arrange an (early) interview for the applicant during the current application cycle?
- Will the second fellowship commit to ranking the applicant to match in the future cycle provided the applicant successfully matches with MGP?

The programs should generate a written agreement that the applicant will be “ranked to match” in the match cycle for the second fellowship provided the applicant successfully matches with MGP. If the second fellowship PD is not willing to accommodate an early interview or guarantee placement, the applicant must be informed that there are no guarantees for dual fellowship recruitment at your institution.

Scenario B: The second fellowship does not participate in a fellowship Match

- Will the second fellowship program accommodate an (early) interview for the applicant during the current application cycle?
- Will the second fellowship make a future offer provided the applicant successfully matches with MGP?

The programs should generate a written agreement that the applicant will be offered a position in the second fellowship provided the applicant successfully matches with MGP. If the second fellowship PD is not willing to accommodate an early interview or guarantee placement, the

applicant must be informed that there are no guarantees for dual fellowship recruitment at your institution.

Scenario C: The institution offers a “dual-track” option in the fellowship Match.

- The applicant should be interviewed and ranked based on the institutional procedures for dual-track applicants.

At this time, the MGP Program Council does **NOT** recommend that programs create dual-track programs to accommodate potential dual-applicants. Dual-track programs add additional complexity both for the applicants (e.g. identifying programs with dual-tracks vs. those without) and for PDs. Dual-track matches may limit flexibility for MGP PDs to rank applicants, add an additional cost, and dual-track programs must be offered/declared for each match cycle.

I have an applicant who is interested in MGP at my institution and a second fellowship at another institution.

It is at the discretion of the PD programs at both institutions to determine if an inter-institutional recruitment is feasible. The MGP PD council does not endorse or advise against this recruitment method but acknowledges the complexity of such a process. In most cases, the MGP PD should interview and rank the applicant based on their suitability for MGP fellowship training.