

Neuroimmunology and MS Match - Applicant FAQs

Should I apply for a neuroimmunology and MS fellowship through the Match?

Beginning with the 2023-2024 application cycle, applications for adult neuroimmunology fellowships are through the Match implemented by SF Match and sponsored by ACTRIMS. Virtually all programs agreed to participate. With the 2024-2025 cycle, pediatric neuroimmunology fellowships also are through the Match. As outlined below there are a few programs for which applications and selection are handled outside the Match.

Neuroimmunology and MS Match	✓ 1-year predominantly clinical fellowships
	✓ 2–3-year fellowships combining clinical training with general clinical research training
<i>The above include programs that are adult only, pediatric only, or combined adult and pediatric.</i>	
Exceptions Handled outside the Match Process	✓ fellowships that do not include a clinical training component
	✓ applicants being recruited by an individual PI to work on specific funded clinical, translational, or laboratory research projects

When does applicant registration open?

Applicant Registration for the 2024/5 Match cycle will begin on Friday, November 1, 2024.

- Please visit the [SF Match](#) website for additional information on the Neuroimmunology & Multiple Sclerosis Match.
- View the Neuroimmunology Fellowship Match – Applicant Information [here](#)
- The complete cycle timeline can be found [here](#).

When should I have my application completed by?

Applicant registration opens on November 1st, and institutions will handle application review and interviews on their own timelines. The target date to have a completed application is February 4, 2025. While institutions can elect to review applications that come in after this date, there is not a guarantee that they will do so

Can I apply for multiple programs at the same institution through the Match?

Yes, applicants can apply to multiple programs with the same institution but will only match to one.

Example: Program A offers two fellowship tracks: a one-year clinical fellowship and a two-year clinical/research fellowship. You can apply to both. During your interview, the program will try to assess which track better fits you. When it comes to ranking, you would rank the programs on your list separately. Let’s say you decided that you loved the clinical program but were no longer interested in the research one. You could rank the clinical fellowship highly and leave the clinical/research fellowship off your list. Similarly, the program will consider and rank applicants for their clinical and clinical/research fellowships separately.

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Which programs are participating in the Match?

Once you register through SF Match for the Neuroimmunology and MS Match, you will have access to the program directory.

ACTRIMS will provide a list of participation programs and a list of outside the Match research fellowship opportunities prior to applicant registration on the [Match webpage](#).

What if I accept a position outside the Match but applied through the Match?

Some applicants may discover during the interview process that a more intense research fellowship is the right option for them (see “outside the match” listings for institutions that can support neuroimmunology research positions).

Programs offering positions outside the match (mostly research only opportunities) have been asked to wait on making these offers until 4 weeks prior to the rank list deadline, allowing you to interview and know what options are available. If you choose to accept an outside the match offer, you should withdraw any Match applications you have active. You will NOT submit a rank list within SF Match.

What if I decide that an outside-the-Match research fellowship is right for me?

If you know this up front, then you do not need to register for the Match. Instead, you should work directly with your planned PI and their institution to set up your training/research experience.

Can I match at more than one program?

No, this is impossible given the structure of the Match.

What if I need to couple's match?

If you have extenuating circumstances, such that you are restricted to a specific geographic location, you should let the program director at your preferred institution know. This can be handled within the context of the Match; you and the program would mutually agree to rank each other first, which will guarantee your position there.

What if I want to stay at my home institution?

This can be handled within the context of the Match. You should discuss it with your program director. If they wish to have you stay, you and the program would mutually agree to rank each other first, which will guarantee your position there.