

Neuroimmunology and MS Match - Program FAQs

What is the timeline for the current match cycle?

The complete cycle timeline can be found [here](#).

If my institution participated in a past cycle, how do I participate in the current cycle?

SF Match began the new match cycle on Wednesday, August 28. This means that on this date:

- Programs received requests to confirm their participation in the 2025 Neuroimmunology/Multiple Sclerosis Fellowship Match for 2026 positions by entering the number of positions they will be offering and updating an program fields that allow annual updating.
- Programs received an invoice to pay for their annual membership fee (\$225) from SF Match

What if I would like to register a new fellowship program with the Match?

New programs can register through the [SF Match website](#). Step-by-step directions for registering a program can be found [here](#).

Should my fellowship program go 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

What if my institution has outside the match research fellowship opportunities?

Fellowships that are better handled outside the Match process include:

- Fellowships that do not include a clinical training component, or
- Fellowships where applicants are recruited by an individual PI to work on specific funded clinical, translational, or laboratory research projects.

Any institutions who routinely offer this type of opportunity should identify themselves, including the options for off-Match positions (ex: research fellowship in neurosarcoidosis, research

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fellowship in myelitis, bench-based work in human immunology). This information will be posted on the ACTRIMS website.

- ➔ If your institution has outside the Match research fellowship opportunities, please identify them using [this form](#).

What if my institution offers more than one type of fellowship?

If your institution wants to manage the number of slots and evaluate applicants separately for different tracks or different fellowships, you can have multiple listings in SF Match.

You may have separate listings, i.e.,

Famous University – Clinical

Positions available – 2

Years of training - 1

Famous University – Combined clinical/research

Positions available – 1

Years of training - 2-3

Fellows can apply to more than one listing at an institution and rank them differently but will only match with one. You can discuss their preference during the interview. You do not need to interview separately for the two tracks.

The program can rank applicants differently for their various listings, weighing their credentials relative to other applicants.

Do I have to run separate interviews, if I have both clinical and clinical/research fellowship tracks?

No. The interviews can be combined.

What if I really like a candidate for our clinical/research pathway, but I don't think they'd be a good candidate for the clinical-only pathway?

If you feel that a candidate is best served by only one of your training pathways, rank them highly for that position. You do not need to include them on the rank list at all for the other pathway, or you can rank them towards the bottom of your list.

I've listed 1 clinical/research fellowship position, but (1) after interviewing, I am not happy with any of my candidates, or (2) my funding/project fell through, and I can't commit to a position. What do I do?

You can indicate on the SF Match that you will not submit a rank list for a listed position. It will not be matched, and there is no penalty.

Example: You listed a clinical/research training opportunity, but no good candidates emerged (or, you were unable to secure funding for the position). You should indicate to the SF Match that you will not submit a rank list for that position. No one will be Matched to that position, regardless of whether trainees ranked it or not. The position will still be listed for the next academic year, and you can reconsider then.

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What if an applicant needs to couple's match?

If there are extenuating circumstances, and an applicant you want to Match is restricted to a specific geographic location, this can be handled within the context of the Match. You can verbally commit to the trainee that you will rank them first, with their mutual assurance that they will also rank you first. This will guarantee that they will Match with you.

What if I have an internal candidate who wants to stay?

This can be handled within the context of the Match. You can let the trainee know that you will rank them at the top of your list. Assuming that they also rank you first, this will guarantee that they will Match with you.