

Supplemental Digital Appendix 1

2015 National Resident Matching Program Applicant Survey

Welcome to the 2015 NRMP Main Residency Match: Applicant Survey

The NRMP is seeking information about the factors used by Main Residency Match applicants to make decisions about applying to and ranking programs. The main purpose of the data is to better understand applicant decision-making behavior and to inform and refine the advice the NRMP provides to Match participants about the matching process. This survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary and you may choose not to answer any question. You also may withdraw from the survey at any time by contacting the lead researcher whose contact information appears below. Choosing not to participate will not affect your Match results in any way.

Your individual responses to the questionnaire will remain confidential, will not be shared with any training programs, and will not affect your Match results in any way. Data will be stored in a secure server to which a small number of NRMP staff trained in confidentiality procedures and human subjects' protection will have access. Aggregate publications of the responses may be made public but will include no personally-identifiable information.

There are no known risks or direct benefits to you if you complete the survey. By participating, you will be contributing to the NRMP's understanding of the factors applicants find important in developing a rank order list and choosing a residency program. You also will be helping future applicants gain a more informed understanding of how to choose programs to apply to and rank.

This research is being conducted by Mei Liang and Jared Malin from the NRMP. The investigators can be reached at 202-400-2233 or at datarequest@nrmp.org if you have any questions about this questionnaire or the use of the results.

This survey has been granted exemption from IRB oversight by Chesapeake Institutional Review Board (IRB). This survey has also been reviewed in accordance with NRMP policies and procedures.

By continuing you acknowledge that you have read the above, understand the disclosure statement, and agree to participate.

1. Please answer the following questions about your residency applications and interviews. These questions refer to your participation in the 2015 NRMP Main Residency Match only.

	Preferred Specialty (Specialty of the first program on the rank order list)	All Other Specialties (if applicable)
Number of applications submitted	_____	_____
Number of interviews offered	_____	_____
Number of interviews attended	_____	_____
Number of programs ranked	_____	_____

Number of specialties applied to (including preferred specialty): _____

2. Which of the following did you use in **selecting programs for application**? Please select all that apply. (required question)*

Institutional Characteristics

- ☐ ABMS Board pass rates
- ☐ Academic medical center program
- ☐ Community-based setting
- ☐ Cultural/racial/ethnic/gender diversity at the institution
- ☐ Future fellowship training opportunities with institution
- ☐ Perceived goodness of fit
- ☐ Presence of a previous Match violation
- ☐ Quality of hospital facilities
- ☐ Quality of ambulatory care facilities
- ☐ Reputation of program
- ☐ Size of program

Educational Factors

- ☐ Appropriate balance between faculty supervision and resident responsibility for patient care
- ☐ Opportunities to perform specific procedures
- ☐ Opportunity for international experience
- ☐ Opportunity to conduct research
- ☐ Preparation for fellowship training
- ☐ Program's flexibility to pursue electives and interests
- ☐ Quality of educational curriculum and training

Clinical Duties/Patient Care Factors

- ☐ Alternative duty hours in program
- ☐ Availability of electronic health records
- ☐ Call schedule
- ☐ Diversity of patient problems
- ☐ Opportunities for training in systems-based practice
- ☐ Size of patient caseload

Faculty and Staff Characteristics

- ☐ Career paths of recent program graduates
- ☐ House staff morale
- ☐ Quality of ancillary support staff
- ☐ Quality of faculty
- ☐ Quality of program director
- ☐ Quality of residents in program

Compensation and Benefits

- ☐ H-1B visa sponsorship
- ☐ Salary
- ☐ Supplemental income (moonlighting) opportunities
- ☐ Vacation/parental/sick leave
- ☐ Other Benefits

Quality of Life Factors

- ☐ Cost of living
- ☐ Cultural/racial/ethnic diversity of geographic location
- ☐ Geographic location
- ☐ Having friends at the program
- ☐ Social and recreational opportunities of the area
- ☐ Support network in the area
- ☐ Work/life balance

3. Below is a list of factors you said you used in **selecting programs for application**. Please rate the importance of each factor (1='not important' and 5='extremely important').
(Note: answers piped from previous question)

	1 (not important)	2	3	4	5 (extremely important)
Options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Which of the following did you use in **ranking programs on your rank order list**? Please select all that apply. (Required question) *

Institutional Characteristics

- ☐ ABMS Board pass rates
- ☐ Academic medical center program
- ☐ Community-based setting
- ☐ Cultural/racial/ethnic/gender diversity at the institution
- ☐ Future fellowship training opportunities with institution
- ☐ Presence of a previous Match violation
- ☐ Quality of hospital facilities
- ☐ Quality of ambulatory care facilities
- ☐ Reputation of program
- ☐ Size of program

Educational Factors

- ☐ Appropriate balance between faculty supervision and resident responsibility for patient care
- ☐ Opportunities to perform specific procedures
- ☐ Opportunity for international experience
- ☐ Opportunity to conduct research
- ☐ Preparation for fellowship training
- ☐ Program's flexibility to pursue electives and interests
- ☐ Quality of educational curriculum and training

Clinical Duties/Patient Care Factors

- ☐ Alternative duty hours in program
- ☐ Availability of electronic health records
- ☐ Call schedule
- ☐ Diversity of patient problems
- ☐ Opportunities for training in systems-based practice
- ☐ Size of patient caseload

Faculty and Staff Characteristics

- ☐ Career paths of recent program graduates
- ☐ House staff morale
- ☐ Quality of ancillary support staff
- ☐ Quality of faculty
- ☐ Quality of program director
- ☐ Quality of residents in program

Compensation and Benefits

- ☐ H-1B visa sponsorship
- ☐ Salary
- ☐ Supplemental income (moonlighting) opportunities
- ☐ Vacation/parental/sick leave
- ☐ Other Benefits

Quality of Life Factors

- ☐ Cost of living
- ☐ Cultural/racial/ethnic diversity of geographic location
- ☐ Geographic location
- ☐ Having friends at the program
- ☐ Social and recreational opportunities of the area
- ☐ Support network in the area
- ☐ Work/life balance

Interview

- ☐ Interview day experience
- ☐ Overall goodness of fit

5. Below is a list of factors you said you used in **ranking programs on your rank order list**. Please rate the importance of each factor (1=*not important* and 5=*extremely important*). **(Note: answers piped from previous question)**

	1 (not important)	2	3	4	5 (extremely important)
Options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Please indicate if any of the following describe your ranking strategy. Check all that apply:

- ☐ I ranked programs in the order of my preferences.
- ☐ I ranked programs based on the likelihood of matching (most likely first, etc.).
- ☐ I ranked a mix of both competitive and less competitive programs.
- ☐ I ranked all programs at which I interviewed.
- ☐ I ranked all programs that I was willing to attend.
- ☐ I ranked one or more less competitive program(s) in my preferred specialty as a "safety net".
- ☐ I ranked one or more program(s) in an alternative specialty as a "fall-back" plan.
- ☐ I ranked one or more programs where I applied but did not interview.

7. If you do not obtain a residency position in the Match, how *likely* are you to pursue the following strategies?

	Not at all likely	A little likely	Moderately likely	Very likely	Extremely likely	N/A
Participate in SOAP for a position in my preferred specialty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participate in SOAP for a position in a less competitive back-up specialty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participate in SOAP for a preliminary year position and re-enter the Match next year	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not participate in SOAP and re-enter the Match next year	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delay graduation and re-enter the Match next year	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pursue research and re-enter the Match next year	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pursue a graduate degree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pursue graduate medical education training outside the U.S.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pursue non-clinical training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Thinking of the upcoming Match, please estimate your chances of matching to *any* program that you ranked (0 = no chance, 100 = absolutely positive):

Please enter a number between 0 and 100: _____