How to Interview and Prepare Fellowship Applications: Current Fellow Perspective

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Disclosures

- No financial disclosures
Start early

- Letters of recommendation
  - Give your letter writers plenty of time to write you a good letter
  - Writers may want an updated copy of your CV and your personal statement
- Personal statement
  - Hopefully the last one you’ll EVER have to write
- Updated CV
- Track down 4 years worth of ABSITE scores
- Finalize and submit your application the day it opens
Pre-interview

- Make an attempt to get to the pre-interview dinner
  - Really helps to see how the fellows/department is outside of work
- Ask TONS of questions
  - Fellows
    - What is it like to work with the attendings?
    - Do the attendings get along with each other?
  - Ancillary staff
    - Work environment, support, etc
- Residents
- Attendings
Pre-interview

- IGNORE THE FELLOWS (sort of)
  - You will never work with them
  - If you get rubbed the wrong way, or don’t like the fellows… IT DOESN’T MATTER
- Really get to know the attendings
  - More so than residency, fellowship is intimate
  - You will work with these people every day for TWO YEARS
Interview day

- Give yourself plenty of time in the morning
  - Uber nightmares…
- Be prepared
  - Be able to talk about anything that is in your personal statement
  - Be able to talk about your research, or lack thereof
  - Be able to talk about any time off
  - Know something about your interviewer
  - Be yourself
Interview day

- Be able to answer questions about your career goals
  - 5-10 year goals
  - Private practice vs. hybrid vs. academic vascular surgery
  - Where do you want to practice eventually?
  - What area of vascular surgery do you want to focus on?
  - What’s your favorite operation? Least favorite?
  - How do you see yourself interacting with residents and medical students?
  - How well do you interact with nurses?
  - What do you do outside of work to keep yourself sane?
Post-interview

- Keep a running list of the programs you like, in the order that you like them
- Rank programs while the memory is fresh
- If you really like a program, send thank you letters or emails
- It’s ok to not rank a program
  - If you absolutely cannot see yourself at an institution for two years of your life… do not rank it
  - Fellowship is hard(er than residency)
On match day….

- You will not get an email
  - Yay!! I matched!!
  - Sad face – guess I’m going to be a general surgeon
- Log-in to the NRMP website at 12pm
- REMEMBER YOUR PASSWORD
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Applicants and Staff from Institutions, Hospitals, Programs, or Schools. If you have already created a Username and Password for a current Match, enter them here.

Invalid Username or Password. Please try again.

* Username: 

* Password: I forgot my Username or Password

Login
Summary

- Start early
- Be prepared
- Be yourself
- Don’t forget your password