How to Prepare Fellowship Applications and Interview for a Position

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Disclosures

No financial relationships to disclose

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My job to read every application and chose the 18 people we will interview for our 2 fellowship spots
“Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising which tempt you to believe that your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires courage.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Overview

1) Where should you apply?
2) Timing and content of application
3) Letters of recommendation
4) Personal statement
5) The interview process
Choose your career path
   Academic vs. Private
Scope of practice
Mentorship
Be realistic about your CV
Geographic considerations
Talk to Everyone

Mentor
Division Chief
Vascular Program Director
Research Advisors
Current Fellows
Timing of Application

ERAS – [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)
NRMP – [www.nrmp.org](http://www.nrmp.org)

Timeline

Match Opens 12/08/2011
Rank Order List Opens 03/30/2012
Quota Change Deadline 04/20/2012
Rank Order List Closes 05/04/2012
Match Day 05/18/2012
Timing of Application

July: Start working on your CV
August: Visit websites for list of programs and timeline, begin ERAS application
September – November: Chose your programs, obtain letters of recommendation
December: Match opens – complete your application ASAP
January: Programs close
January – April: Interviews
Match Statistics - 2010

80 Programs, 113 Positions
Fill rate 91.2% (10 unmatched programs)
67% of positions filled by US graduates
37% of applicants matched in their 1st choice
9% of applicants did not match
Things to Include in Application

Research

Abstracts and posters count even if they are local

Consider your State ACS or local surgical society for presentations

Do not embellish

Do not be humble here
Letters of Recommendation

Critical letters
- Vascular Division Chief
- Department Chair
- Other clinical faculty
- Research mentor

Timing
- Ask early “would you feel comfortable writing me a letter of recommendation”
Letters of Recommendation

Personalize
  Sit down with them and discuss your career goals
  Give polished CV early
  Personal statement
  Paragraph describing your research
  Anything else you want in the letter
Personal Statement

Should be different from residency
Give insight into your life/ career goals
Do not need a clinical story that leads to an epiphany
Make sure it is well written
Personalize
Finalize Application

Should apply to around 20 programs
Have at least 5 “safe” ones on the list
Make sure your letters have been received
Call the programs to make sure your application is complete
Interviews

2 Objectives

1) Determine if the program is right for you
2) Determine if you are right for the program
Preparing for Interviews

Do your homework!

Know the program and faculty
Good idea to see what they write about
Understand clinical/ research mission
Have specific questions
Make a list to compare programs
Preparing for Interviews

Do your homework!

Think about answers to the basic questions

Be familiar with your CV

Be able to talk about any paper/research you listed

Have an interesting vascular case ready

Ethical dilemmas
Things to Look For

Clinical experience
Formal educational curriculum
Research opportunities
Level of responsibility
Case mix
Faculty interaction with fellows
Surrounding community
Interview Etiquette

DO NOT GET DRUNK ON THE INTERVIEW TRAIL!
Every interaction can have repercussions
Your fellow applicants may become friends but you
are vying for the same positions

Support Staff
Be nice/ polite
Do not bore them with your accomplishments
Do not hit on them!
After Your Visit

Send thank you letters – express continued interest
Analyze data from visits and compare
Speak with your advisors
Phone calls
Submit final rank list
Conclusion

Treat this process like a job interview
Work with your faculty and mentors
Know your goals
Make a plan
Be prepared
Be professional
Conclusion

“Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle.”

Abraham Lincoln