

UC Davis Department of Pediatrics Pediatric Fellowship Information Guide

1. Do I want to do a Pediatric Subspecialty Fellowship?

This is an individual choice, which must take into account your personal and professional goals and interests. Please refer to the AAP Policy Statement on Fellowship Training for an overview of the objectives of fellowship training.

The Council of Pediatric Subspecialties website provides detailed descriptions of pediatric subspecialties, including information about salaries and lifestyle:

<https://www.pedsubs.org/about-cops/subspecialty-descriptions/>

Helpful information on Pediatric Subspecialty Programs with slides organized by subspecialty from multiple programs reviewing the characteristics of each fellowship site from 2023-2024:

<https://www.appd.org/resources-programs/subspecialties/>

2. Who can I contact at UC Davis for advice if I already know what subspecialty I am interested in?

Subspecialty	Contact
Adolescent	Laura Kester Prakash, MD
Allergy/Immunology	Victoria Dimitriades, MD
Anesthesiology	Niroop Ravula, MD
Cardiology	Jay Yeh, MD
Child Abuse	Julia Magana, MD
Development/Behavioral	Kathleen Angkustsiri, MD
PICU	Jessica Signoff, MD
Dermatology	Smita Awasthi, MD
Emergency Medicine	Cheryl Vance, MD
Endocrinology	Dennis Styne, MD
Academic General Pediatrics	Serena Yang, MD
Genetics	Suma Shankar, MD PhD
GI	Arthur de Lorimier, MD
Global Health	Elysia Alvarez, MD
Hematology/Oncology	Anjali Pawar, MD
Hospitalist	Heather McKnight, MD
Infectious Disease	Dean Blumberg, MD
Neonatology	Kristin Hoffman, MD
Nephrology	Lavjay Butani, MD
Neurology	Amy Brooks-Kayal, MD Celia Chang, MD
Palliative Care	Theresa Murdock-Vlautin, MD
Pulmonology	Kiran Nandalike, MD
Rheumatology	Sheryl Boon, MD Angel Herrera Guerra, MD
Sports Medicine	Marcia Faustin, MD

3. What resources are available to answer my questions about pediatric fellowships?

a) The Council of Pediatric Subspecialties: Provides detailed descriptions of pediatric subspecialties, including information about salaries, lifestyle and application deadlines.

<https://www.pedsubs.org/about-cops/subspecialty-descriptions/>

b) National Resident Matching Program (NRMP): Manages most subspecialty matches. The NRMP website provides information on pediatric subspecialties participating in a particular subspecialty match. It provides deadlines for registration and rank order list submission, as well as a list of the fellowship programs which participated in the prior year’s match (“Participating Programs in Previous Match”). Residents must register with NRMP to participate in their subspecialty’s match.

<http://www.nrmp.org/intro-fellowship-matches/>

c) ERAS: Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS®) is the service that transmits fellowship applications and other supporting documents to program directors. Most fellowships utilizing NRMP use ERAS for transmission of documents. Fellowship documents are sent to ERAS via Fellowship Documents Office (EFDO), an online service exclusively for medical residents and fellows to support the centralized processing of fellowship application materials submitted via ERAS. Fellowship applicants request an electronic token to begin the fellowship application process through ERAS system in early June of R2 year (opens June 6, 2024 cost of \$165). <https://www.erasfellowshipdocuments.org/>

d) FREIDA Online: FREIDA is an AMA database with over 8,700 graduate medical education programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, as well as over 200 combined specialty programs. A search of their database will provide basic information on subspecialty programs and how to contact the particular program you are interested in. Applicants should individually contact programs that they are interested in. [FREIDA™ AMA Residency & Fellowship Programs Database \(ama-assn.org\)](https://www.freida.org/)

e) Individual Program Websites: Though variable, many fellowship programs have websites which provide information about their program.

4. Which pediatric fellowships participate in the NRMP match process?

All pediatric subspecialties that participate in the NRMP are now on a July Cycle Application as of 2019:

Please see the following website for a listing of programs participating in NRMP by specialty:

<https://systems.aamc.org/eras/erasstats/par/>

<https://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-applicants/participating-fellowships/pediatric-specialties-match/>

Academic General Pediatrics	Child Abuse Pediatrics	GI	Nephrology	Pulmonology
Adolescent	Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics	Heme/Onc	NICU	Rheumatology
Allergy/Immunology	Emergency Medicine	Hospitalist Medicine	Palliative Medicine	Sports Medicine
Cardiology	Endocrinology	Infectious Disease	PICU	

5. What if I am interested in a fellowship program that does not participate in the NRMP?

As of 2024, essentially all pediatric specialties participate in an NRMP match including Academic General Pediatrics, Hospitalist Medicine, and Child Abuse. Global Health Fellowship is not included in the NRMP as of 2024. A current list of Global Health Fellowships and contact information can be found through the Academic Pediatric Association website. <https://www.academicpeds.org/publications-resources/fellowships/apa-accredited-fellowship-programs/>

6. How long are pediatric fellowships?

Most pediatric fellowships are 3 years, with the exception of some Academic General Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Child Abuse, and Hospitalist fellowship programs (vary 2-3 years).

<https://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-applicants/participating-fellowships/pediatric-specialties-match/>

7. How does a person become licensed to practice a pediatric subspecialty?

Specific requirements for board examination, MOC requirements, and licensure requirements can be found on ABP website (www.abp.org)

8. Are there research requirements for a pediatric subspecialty career?

Research is typically one important aspect of fellowship training for pediatric subspecialties and can be a major or minor part of one's career as a pediatric subspecialist.

8. What is the timeline for fellowship application?

1) Early June of R2 year you can submit your ERAS Fellowship token request to begin your application process (opens June 6, 2024 cost of \$165).

<https://www.erasfellowshipdocuments.org/>

2) Early July of R3 Year: Once you have purchased your token, you can register at MyERAS to begin your application: <https://myeras.aamc.org/myeras-web>

- You will need to submit your supporting documents including: MSPE, Medical School Transcript, Letters of Recommendation, Photograph

- You will submit your personal statement and CV

3) Mid July (typically around July 19th) of R3 year: Have your application and LOR complete as your ERAS application is now available to the fellowship programs you have designated

4) August-October R3 year: interview with fellowship programs

5) September R3 year: register for the NRMP (www.nrmp.org) You can access a sept by step guide from NRMP here: https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Registering_for_SMS_Match-App.pdf

6) November R3 Year (11/20/24 for 7/2025 start date): submit and certify your rank order list through nrmp

7) Nov-Dec R3 year (12/4/24 for 7/2025 start date): match day!

Application timeline: <https://www.erasfellowshipdocuments.org/Instructions/Index/Timeline>

ERAS 2024 Participating Specialties & Programs: <https://systems.aamc.org/eras/erasstats/par/>

NRMP Fellowship Match Guide: <https://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-applicants/>

NRMP Fellowship Match Applicant checklist: <https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/SMS-Applicant-Checklist-FINAL-4.2022.pdf>

NRMP Pediatric Specialties Match Calendar: <https://www.nrmp.org/fellowship/medicine-and-pediatric-specialties-match/>

9. What are the usual components of a fellowship application?

- a) Completed application
- b) Personal Statement
- c) Copy of medical license
- d) Letters of Recommendation (often 3), +/- Program Director letter
- e) USMLE score reports (parts 1, 2 and 3)
- f) Curriculum vitae
- g) Copy of your MSPE/Dean's letter from medical school
- h) Copy of medical school diploma
- i) Photograph

10. What else should I consider as I begin thinking about applying to fellowship?

- a) Away Rotations: An away rotation will allow you to learn more about a particular program, as well as get to know key faculty in that program. You may take a maximum of four weeks of away time during your three years of residency. Please refer to the UCD Pediatrics Residency Away Rotation Policy.
- b) Research: Research experience during residency will allow you to pursue previously established interests, will strengthen your fellowship application, and will provide you with good background knowledge prior to beginning fellowship. The following are just some opportunities:
 - i. Resident CMN mentored research grants— Up to \$3000, of which \$1500 can be for presentation/publication costs. Submission deadline typically early December.
 - ii. AAP Resident Research Grants – Submission deadline typically in February. Up to \$2000 with additional \$1000 for travel to conference.
 - iii. UCD Pediatrics Poster Symposium – A portion of your Scholarly Project requirement. Held in the June of each year. Good opportunity to develop and present a poster.
 - iv. Case reports – a quick and relatively easy way to publish. Interesting cases are everywhere! If you don't know of any, speak to the chief residents about case management cases... they frequently involve novel presentations which may be publication worthy.

c) Mentorship: A faculty mentor (usually in your desired field) will provide you with career advice and assist you with identifying research opportunities and identifying desirable fellowship programs. This person does not need to be your faculty advisor, and should be sought out as soon as possible during your residency training. Please refer to the list of faculty provided above if you are unsure of whom to contact.

11. In addition to a research elective, what electives should I take if I am interested in a particular subspecialty?

Desired Specialty	Electives to Consider
Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics	1) Neurology, 2) Genetics, 3) Psychiatry or PM&R
Child Abuse	1) Radiology, 2) Genetics, 3) Pediatric Surgery
Endocrinology	1) Genetics, 2)Nephrology/Urology, 3) Psychiatry
Genetics	1) Endocrinology, 2) Neurology, 3) Allergy/Immunology
Hospitalist	1) Kaiser Inpatient elective, 2) Transport, 3) GI
Infectious Diseases	1) Rheumatology, 2) Allergy, 3) Dermatology
Nephrology	1) Rheumatology, 2) ID, 3) Cardiology
NICU	1) Anesthesia, 2) Cardiology, 3) Developmental Pediatrics, 4) Small Baby Unit of NICU
PICU	1) Anesthesia; 2) Pediatric Cardiac ICU; 3) Cardiology

12. Tips: What do residents wish they had known prior to starting this process?

a) Start saving money! Expenses add up, and residents wish they had begun putting aside money as a PGY1 to cover costs (application, flights, hotel rooms, etc).

b) Plan ahead! It is helpful to do a rotation in your desired field early in your second year. This will allow you to establish with certainty that you wish to pursue fellowship in that field, and allow you time to get to know the attendings and secure letters of recommendation. Ask for letters of recommendation early – at least three months ahead of time.

c) Efficiency Measures: The general fellowship application form through ERAS is the same as for residency applications. If you have a copy of your residency application, you may save some time.

d) Should I do an away rotation? From one resident: “My away rotation made my application significantly stronger from comments I've heard on the interview trail, given the small HO community and respect among senior members of the community who offered a recommendation.”

e) How many interviews should you schedule? This depends of your competitiveness, of course, but many recommend 5-6 interviews. In general, residents interview with fewer programs than they did for residency. One resident noted that she was surprised to not like programs in person that she thought highly of before, so it was helpful to have a few “backups.” Another resident noted “Think about a program and your interest very hard before scheduling an interview day. I applied to a lot of programs and wish I had held off on scheduling a few of the ones that I wasn't as excited about. I heard back from

some programs I really liked later and had already sort of maxed out my requested # days off/booked flights/confirmed interviews at that point.”

f) Scheduling interviews: Scheduling interviews can be difficult to coordinate with rotation schedules, but virtual interviews can minimize number of days off needed. Days off can affect your education and your colleagues’ schedules. Everyone agrees – it is best to have vacation time to use for fellowship interviews! Prior to making your vacation and schedule requests, please consider when your specific fellowship may be conducting interviews. Please refer to the residency LOA and Missed Rotation Days Policies for guidelines about taking time off to interview.

i. Find out early when your desired programs plan to interview. Some programs offer only limited, specific dates; others are quite flexible.

ii. It is helpful to look up when the AAP and PAS meetings are scheduled – you may wish to avoid those dates because key faculty are likely away.

iii. “Having some vacation time [during interview season] was key for me being able to interview on both coasts. I would also suggest requesting an elective during those months as well, so that you do not end up on an inpatient rotation where you would have to jeopardize someone to go to an interview. Having ED during that time may be helpful also, as you at least get a one or two weekdays off during your stretch of daytime shifts in which you could potentially schedule an interview without having to miss a day, but you would have to coordinate that with the ED chief also. If Kaiser continues to allow us to make up a few missed weekdays on the weekends, then it would be helpful to have that in the spring also.” -- Again, refer to the LOA and Missed Rotation Days Policies.

g) Practice before you interview: From one resident: “I did a mock interview with a mentor about why I wanted to go into the field, to stimulate thought about the difficult questions and to help with focus. I can't explain how extremely important it has been in interviews given that my interest in the subspecialty is very broad.”