

Northeastern Regional Externship Match (Extern Match)

Overview of the 2026 Extern Match

The Extern Match is an Application Service and Matching Program that provides an orderly process to help applicants obtain externship positions of their choice, and to help externship sites obtain applicants of their choice.

[Agreement and Policies](#) 

[Schedule of Dates](#) 

[Extern Match Support](#) 

[Manage Your Match Account](#)

You have been assigned a 5-digit Code Number that uniquely identifies you in the Extern Match. You should use your Extern Match Code Number in all future communications related to the Extern Match.

You can [log into the Extern Match Portal](#) to manage your [Account, Profile, and Status](#) information for the Extern Match. If you no longer intend to participate in the 2026 Extern Match, you should [withdraw from the Extern Match](#) and not submit a Rank Order List.

[Applications](#)

You must use the Extern Match Portal to prepare and submit all your applications to externship sites. [Required components of the application](#) include basic contact information, CV, cover letter, and DCT verification letter. You can customize your CV and cover letter for each site if you wish. If an externship site wants additional documentation, the site can specify the documents they require in the site's listing in the Extern Match Directory. Additional documents might include an assessment report or case summary, letters of recommendation, or unofficial transcript. These documents can be added into your application to the site. Consult the [Application Service User Guide](#) for more information.

The application deadline for all sites is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on January 23, 2026. You are strongly encouraged to submit your applications well before the deadline to ensure you have time to address any unexpected issues that may arise. Once the application deadline has passed, you will not be able to submit any applications.

The [Externship Site Directory](#) on the Extern Match website provides information submitted by each participating site that describes the training opportunities offered by the site. As soon as you find a site of interest, add the site to your list of pending applications in the Extern Match Portal. The site will be notified of your interest and will have access to your contact information, even before you submit your application, so they can reach out to you with information if they choose to do so.

[Interviews](#)

Sites can begin to send invitations for interviews to applicants through the Extern Match Portal beginning on January 26, 2026. You will receive interview invitations by email and will be able to [self-schedule](#) into available interview timeslots online directly from the invitation email. You can also log into your Extern Match Portal account to view interview invitations and manage your interview schedule.

All interview scheduling must be finalized by March 9, 2026, and interviews must be completed by the Final Day for Interviews, March 17, 2026.

[Rankings](#)

Once interviews and evaluations are complete, all applicants and sites submit Rank Order Lists of their preferred choices into the Extern Match Portal by the Rank Order List deadline, March 24, 2026. The [Rankings User Guide](#) has step-by-step instructions for entering and certifying your Rank Order List.

Each site offers one or more tracks in the Match. A track refers to a specific stream or training experience offered by the site; tracks offered by a site may be differentiated by characteristics such as the type of training, location, or scheduling requirements. You must rank, and are matched to, a specific track offered by a site.

Your Rank Order List should include all tracks at sites you applied to that would be acceptable to you, ordered according to your true preferences. You should not consider how the site might rank you when ordering your sites. The Extern Match website has more information about the [optimal ranking strategy](#).

Some PENDELDOT sites offer part-time positions (8 or fewer hours per week). To satisfy their full training requirement, applicants seeking these positions will need to be placed into two part-time positions. These applicants must follow special procedures [described on the Extern Match website](#) for submitting their Rank Order Lists.

If you certify a Rank Order List of sites and do not withdraw prior to the Rank Order List deadline, your rankings will be used in the Match.

[Results](#)

NMS uses an established and proven [matching algorithm](#) to process the Rank Order Lists submitted by applicants and sites. The algorithm tries to match you to the most preferred site on your Rank Order List that ranks you and does not fill all its positions with applicants it prefers to you.

Your Extern Match result (whether you successfully matched to a position and, if so, to which site you matched) is provided to you online and by email on Match Results Day, March 31, 2026.

Applicants who do not match and sites with unfilled positions may participate in the [Post-Match Process](#) to fill any positions that remain available. The Post-Match Process begins at 12:00 pm Eastern Time on March 31. There is no ranking or matching process during the Post-Match Process. A list of available sites will be provided to unmatched applicants, and sites will have access to information about unmatched applicants. Registered applicants can submit additional applications to sites using the Extern Match Portal. Applicants and sites may communicate, share information, and conduct interviews, but no offers may be made or accepted before April 14, 2026. Post-Match offers will be made by sites directly to applicants beginning on Post-Match Offer Day, April 14, 2026.

[Help Resources](#)

For additional information, review the [Extern Match website](#), including the [Overview for Applicants](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#), or [contact NMS support](#).