

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.

[Extern Match Guidelines](#) 

[Schedule of Dates](#) 

[Support](#) 

Registration

To participate in the 2026 Extern Match, each site must set up an account in the Extern Match Portal for the person who will serve as the primary contact person for the site, usually the Training Director. The site should [register](#) in the Extern Match Portal by November 24, 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter. Detailed [step-by-step instructions](#) for registration are available online.

Each site registers one or more tracks in the Extern Match and designates how many positions the site is seeking to fill in each track. A [track](#) refers to a specific stream or training experience. The site will submit a separate Rank Order List of applicants for each track, and applicants can rank each track separately on their Rank Order Lists.

Once registered, sites must complete their Site Profile by November 24, 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter, as that information will be posted to the [Externship Site Directory](#) by December 1, 2025. The Directory is used by applicants to search for externships of interest. Only sites that are registered for the Extern Match can be included in the Directory, obtain applications from the Extern Match application service, and participate in the matching process.

Manage Your Account

Once registered, you can log into the Extern Match Portal to update site and track information, including [updating contact information](#), [filling out your Site Profile](#), [modifying the number of positions offered](#), or [adding an additional track](#) to your site. You can also add [secondary users](#) to your account to assist in managing your site information and applications in the Extern Match Portal. If your site will not offer any positions in 2026, it should be [withdrawn](#) from the Extern Match by the Rank Order List deadline.

Applications

Applicants apply to sites using the [Extern Match Portal](#), and all applications will be received by sites via the Extern Match Portal. Sites must accept and consider only applications submitted by applicants through the Extern Match Portal.

The Extern Match Portal opens for applicants to prepare and submit applications, and for sites to review applications, beginning on December 1, 2025. Information about the [contents of the Extern Match application](#) is available on the Extern Match website. The Application Service provides [tools](#) for sites to organize and evaluate applications.

All sites have a default application deadline date of January 23, 2026. No applications can be submitted through the Extern Match Portal after this date.

For sites offering multiple tracks, each applicant submits only one application to the site, and the applicant can indicate within that application which track(s) they are interested in.

[Interviews](#)

The Extern Match Portal has an [interview scheduling module](#) that allows sites to streamline and automate their interview scheduling process. Sites participating in the Extern Match must use the Extern Match portal to schedule interviews.

Externship sites can set up their interview availability as soon as they are registered, but they cannot send interview invitations to students until January 26, 2026. All interview scheduling must be finalized by March 9, 2026 and interviews must be completed by the Final Day for Interviews, March 17, 2026.

Sites must provide applicants with all institution and site policies related to eligibility requirements prior to the Rank Order List deadline.

[Rankings](#)

Sites may begin to enter their Rank Order Lists on March 2, 2026. Programs and applicants must use the Extern Match Portal to enter and certify their Rank Order lists no later than the Rank Order List deadline date, March, 24, 2026. The [Rankings User Guide](#) has step-by-step instructions for entering and certifying your Rank Order List.

You must prepare a separate Rank Order List for each track offered by your site. Your Rank Order List for each track should include all applicants who are acceptable for the track, ordered according to your true preferences. When creating your Rank Order List, you should not consider how an applicant might rank your site. The Extern Match website has more information about the [optimal ranking strategy](#).

If you certify a Rank Order List of applicants and do not withdraw prior to the Rank Order List deadline, the Rank Order List will be used in the matching process.

[Results](#)

NMS uses an established and proven [matching algorithm](#) to process the Rank Order Lists submitted by applicants and sites. The algorithm will try to match each track with the most preferred applicant(s) on its Rank Order List, up to the number of positions to be filled, who have ranked the track and who have not matched to a site they prefer.

[Extern Match results](#) are made available online and by email on March 31, 2026. Sites will be told which applicant(s) matched to each track offered by their site. The placement of an applicant into an externship position is contingent on the execution of an affiliation agreement with the academic program/institution.

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. Sites may fill open positions with any eligible applicant, including those from non-NYNJADOT and PENDELDOT member academic programs. 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. Beginning on April 14, 2026, sites may extend offers directly to applicants by email, copying the applicant's DCT to confirm the offer.

[Help Resources](#)

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