

**Seattle Children's Hospital Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship Program  
Fellow Eligibility and Selection Policy****Revised: 5/22/2026**

Per the University of Washington School of Medicine Eligibility and Selection Policy, the Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship Program's Eligibility and Selection Policy is designed to ensure fair and consistent consideration and decision-making for all applicants to its fellowship training program. Recruitment and appointment of Fellows to Seattle Children's Rheumatology Division is performed by the Program Director, Faculty and Division Head, under the oversight of the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC), the Office of Graduate Medical Education at the University of Washington, and the Graduate Medical Education office at Seattle Children's Hospital.

**Eligibility**

The Program Director must comply with the criteria for fellow eligibility as defined in the Institutional Requirements and as further specified by the Common Program Requirements and applicable specialty-specific program requirements. Applicants must meet one of the following qualifications to be eligible for appointment to an ACGME-accredited program:

1. **Graduation from a medical school in the United States or Canada**, accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME); or,
2. **Graduation from a college of osteopathic medicine in the United States** accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA); or,
3. **Graduation from a medical school outside of the United States or Canada, and meeting one of the following additional qualifications:**
  - (a) holds a currently valid certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates prior to appointment, or,
  - (b) Holds a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in a US licensing jurisdiction in his or her current ACGME specialty/subspecialty program or,
  - (c) Has graduated from a medical school outside the United States and has completed a Fifth Pathway program provided by an LCME-accredited medical school.

4. **Prerequisite training for entry into a pediatric subspecialty program** should include the satisfactory completion of an ACGME-accredited pediatric residency or other training suitable to the program director. Candidates who do not meet this criterion must be advised in writing by the Program Director to consult the American Board of Pediatrics or other appropriate board regarding their eligibility for subspecialty certification.

Effective July 1, 2016, new eligibility requirements for prerequisite training for entry or transfer into ACGME-accredited fellowship programs will take effect. These are detailed in the Common Program Requirements and the One-Year Common Program Requirements, both effective July 1, 2016.

*Fellowship Programs:* All required clinical education for entry into ACGME-accredited fellowship programs must be completed in an ACGME-accredited residency program, or in an RCPSC-accredited or CFPC-accredited residency program located in Canada.

Fellowship programs must receive verification of each entering fellow's level of competency in the required field using ACGME or CanMEDS Milestones assessments from the core residency program.

A Review Committee may grant an exception to the fellowship eligibility requirements. The Program Director must refer to the list of Eligibility Exception Decisions by Specialty to see if a request for an exception to the eligibility criteria may be made by the program.

In addition, the Program Director must ensure that candidates are eligible for a Washington state provider license, be authorized to work in the United States at the time of appointment<sup>1</sup>, and meet applicable essential abilities requirements of the program.

**Application**

The Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship Program at Seattle Children's is required to use the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS®) to receive and accept applications to the program.

**Interview**

Applicants invited to interview for a fellowship position will be informed in writing or by electronic means, of the terms, conditions, and benefits, should they be selected for appointment to the Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship program. They will also be informed in writing or by electronic means regarding all institutional and program policies regarding eligibility and selection for appointment, either in effect at the time of the interview or that will be in effect at the time of their appointment. This includes financial support; vacations; parental, sick, and other leaves of absence; and professional liability, hospitalization, health, disability and other insurance accessible to fellows and their eligible dependents. All terms, conditions, and benefits of the potential appointment are described in the Residency and Fellowship Position Appointment, which is available by January 15th of each year and effective for the following academic year. These resources are posted on the Prospective Residents and Fellows page on the GME website. Applicants invited to interview are also provided a copy of the Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship Handbook.

**Selection**

The Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship Program must select trainees among eligible applicants on the basis of training program-related criteria such as their preparedness, ability, aptitude, academic credentials, communication skills, and personal qualities such as motivation and integrity, as well as professionalism. The Program will not discriminate with regard to sex, race, age, religion, color, national origin, disability, or any other applicable legally protected status.

Before accepting a fellow who has completed residency and/or fellowship training at the University of Washington or an outside training program, or who is transferring from another program, the program will obtain verification of previous educational experiences and a summative competency-based performance evaluation of the transferring resident, as outlined in the UW GME Transfer Policy.

**NRMP Match**

The Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship training program participates in the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) Match. The NRMP All In Policy requires any program participating in the Medicine and Pediatric Specialties Fellowship Match to register and attempt to fill all positions through the Medicine and Pediatric Specialties Fellowship Match. The NRMP will only consider certain exceptions.

The Fellowship Program Director and Coordinator are required to review the terms and conditions of the Match Participation Agreement each year and comply with applicable Match policies and the Match Commitment, which addresses violations of NRMP Policy.

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<sup>1</sup> Non-US citizens must possess appropriate work authorization prior to their appointment to the Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship program. Additional requirements or restrictions may apply for positions depending on source of funding, such as grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

*International Medical Graduates (IMGs):* Graduates of medical schools outside the US and Canada (IMGs) are required to have passed all examinations required for ECFMG Certification, including USMLE Steps 1 and 2 (CK and CS) or their equivalents, before they may be considered for final selection to the fellowship training program.

As noted in the Match Participation Agreement, Program Directors are prohibited from offering positions to ineligible applicants, and must use the Applicant Match History in the Registration, Ranking, and Results<sup>SM</sup> (R3<sup>SM</sup>) System to determine an applicant's eligibility for appointment.

It is a breach of the Match Participation Agreement for:

- (a) a program to request applicants to reveal ranking preferences;
- (b) An applicant to suggest or inform a program that placement on a rank order list or acceptance of an offer during the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program<sup>SM</sup> (SOAP<sup>SM</sup>) is contingent upon submission of a verbal or written statement indicating the program's preferences;
- (c) A program to suggest or inform an applicant that placement on a rank order list or a SOAP<sup>SM</sup> preference list is contingent upon submission of a verbal or written statement indicating the applicant's preference;
- (d) A program to require applicants to reveal the names or identities of programs to which they have or may apply; or
- (e) Program and an applicant in the Matching Program to make any verbal or written contract for appointment to a concurrent year residency or fellowship position prior to the release of the List of Unfilled Programs.

#### **Match Participation Waiver**

In the event that the Pediatric Rheumatology Fellowship Program wishes to accept a candidate outside of the Match, the program must request a waiver from full participation in the Match. Waiver requests are made to the GMEC and include:

- (a) The number of positions to be offered outside the Match and positions in the Match
- (b) A detailed description of the program's application and selection process for applicants accepted outside of the Match; and
- (c) Confirmation that candidates being considered for positions outside the Match will not be interviewed as part of the official NRMP, SF Match or other matching process, and are not currently registered for the Match.

Waivers are time-limited and will not be granted for more than 25% of available positions (or 1 position for programs with less than 4 first year positions) in the program.