

## **Supplemental ERAS applications and preference signaling in the Match: a pilot ERAS project aimed to mitigate issues of over-application**

***The Matching Plan Committee would like to offer the following information to diagnostic radiology residency program directors:***

In an effort to mitigate the effects of over-application in the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is trialing a supplemental application designed to help students share more about themselves and assist program directors in finding applicants that fit their programs' setting and mission. An important component of this new supplemental application is ***preference signaling***, which is based on the successful pilot conducted by otolaryngology in the 2020-2021 Match season<sup>1</sup>.

For the current ERAS cycle, supplemental applications are being offered only to applicants seeking residency positions in dermatology, preliminary and categorical internal medicine, and categorical surgery<sup>2</sup>. Supplemental applications can be completed beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> 2,3.

The supplemental application is separate from the standard ERAS application and includes four sections: 1) Past Experiences, 2) Geographic Information, 3) Preference Signaling, and 4) Work Preferences (this section is optional and for AAMC research only)<sup>2</sup>. With regards to preference signaling, the number of available signals depends on the specialty, with applicants to dermatology receiving 3 signals and applicants to general surgery and internal medicine receiving 5 signals<sup>2,3</sup>.

In regards to future plans for the supplemental application and preference signaling, a recent AAMC publication states,<sup>4</sup> *“After this application cycle, the AAMC will review the new application’s effects and determine how to proceed”; “the endgame is to integrate any useful questions directly into the main application and do away with the supplemental one. That won’t happen before 2023, though.”*

While radiology is not one of the three programs utilizing the supplemental application in the 2022 ERAS cycle, the APDR and Matching Plan Committee will monitor its implementation and impact. For updates, please see the APDR website ([apdr.org](http://apdr.org)). For more information regarding preference signaling and the supplemental ERAS application, please see the references below.

1. Otolaryngology Preference Signaling. <https://opdo-hns.org/mpage/signaling>
2. Supplemental ERAS Application Guide. <https://students-residents.aamc.org/media/12326/download>
3. Supplemental ERAS application (for the ERAS 2022 cycle). <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-residencies-eras/supplementalerasapplication>
4. Weiner S. “Everything you need to know about the supplemental ERAS application.” [https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/everything-you-need-know-about-supplemental-eras-application?utm\\_source=sfmc&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=aamcnews&utm\\_content=newsletter](https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/everything-you-need-know-about-supplemental-eras-application?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=aamcnews&utm_content=newsletter)