



2121 K Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20037
www.nrmp.org Email: support@nrmp.org
Toll Free: (866) 653-NRMP Phone: (202) 400-2233

Statement on the Executive Order Suspending Entry into the United States

President Trump's January 27, 2017 Executive Order suspending entry into the United States of certain individuals is having a significant impact on the Match. Since 1952, the Match has provided a uniform time for both applicants and graduate medical education programs to make their training selections without pressure. After registering for a Match and completing interviews, applicants submit to the NRMP® a list of programs where they wish to train, ranked in order of preference. At the same time, program directors submit to the NRMP® a list of applicants whom they have interviewed and wish to train, also ranked in order of preference. It is the final preferences of applicants and program directors, as expressed on their rank order lists, that determine the Match outcome.

NRMP expects more than 42,000 applicants to register for the 2017 Main Residency Match. This number includes both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals. In addition, almost 5,000 programs participate in the Main Residency Match, offering 32,000 training slots. The Rank Order List Deadline for the 2017 Main Residency Match is February 22. There also are Fellowship Matches occurring between now and when the Executive Order is set to expire. It is not known whether the ban will be expanded or extended.

Residency and fellowship training programs typically begin on July 1. The individuals affected by the Executive Order who are applying for residency and fellowship programs in the U.S. cannot be certain they will be permitted to enter the U.S. by the start of training. At the same time, the training programs cannot be certain when those applicants will be able to come to the U.S., if at all. This uncertainty leaves programs the choice of not ranking qualified applicants or risking empty training slots on their program start date. Even if the ban ends after 90 days, there is concern that the consular interviews that are required prior to obtaining visas will be so slow that affected applicants will not be able to start training on time. There also are concerns about whether residents and fellows who are in the U.S. on visas will be able to remain in their training programs.

The consequences of the Executive Order are far reaching for Match applicants, and the upheaval it is causing is extensive. The affected applicants have worked hard for many years to achieve their goal of becoming physicians, and they should not be denied that opportunity because of a blanket policy that does not consider the individual. Similarly, U.S. training programs should be able to select applicants based on their excellent character and qualifications, without regard to nationality. Both applicants and programs benefit from an orderly process for entry into graduate medical education. The Executive Order disrupts that process very considerably.

The medical education community must support all international medical graduates and their families during these difficult times. As for the current Match cycle, NRMP encourages applicants and programs to make the best decisions they can under current circumstances. For its part, NRMP will be liberal in granting waivers to applicants and programs if they cannot meet their respective Match obligations because of the effects of the Executive Order.

All nations have an interest in having health care provided by well-trained and highly qualified individuals. NRMP will work with the administration and [others in the graduate medical education community](#) to help develop an immigration policy that addresses safety concerns while being fair to both individuals and programs and promoting the best in medical education and research.

Maria C. Savoia, M.D., Chair
Mona M. Signer, President and CEO