

The Radiology Residents' Guide

to Applying for Pediatric Radiology Fellowship

R1

- Join the SPR – free for residents and fellows: <https://www.spr.org/membership-information>
- Follow #pedsrads, SPR and individual pediatric radiologists on X and Instagram for current happenings and to connect with others Attend interdisciplinary conferences while on Pediatric Radiology rotation
- Reach out to pediatric radiologists at your institution or from the list to establish a connection and ask for advice
- Get involved with research projects for potential presentation and publication in later years
- Submit an interesting pediatric radiology case to SPR's Unknown Case contest <https://www.spr.org/news/current%20case>

R2

- Prepare an educational exhibit or scientific abstract for the SPR annual meeting
- Explore educational content on SPR XPress <https://myedu.spr.org/catalog>
- Submit an interesting pediatric radiology case to *ACR Case-In-Point* <https://cortex.acr.org/CiP/>
- Consider spending some time with the sonographers getting hands-on experience with pediatric ultrasound (neonatal head, appendix, intussusception, pylorus, malrotation)
- Volunteer for an SPR committee (open call for volunteers in March)

R3

- Schedule Pediatric Radiology rotations in July-October timeframe
- Attend the Pediatric Radiology interest evening at AIRP
- Develop a personal statement for fellowship applications (see tips in Resources section)
- Request letters of recommendation (Program Director and at least 1 pediatric radiologist you have worked with)
- Collect application materials (August-October), consider a spreadsheet to keep track of requirements for each program (sample spreadsheet included in Resources section)
- Attend virtual open houses and other fellowship program events
- Send application packet to programs (November)
- Interviews in January (following SCARD embargo), offers follow embargo rules
 - If you need more time to decide, ask the programs

R4

- Consider planning a mini fellowship in Pediatric Radiology if offered by residency program
- Attend SPR Annual Meeting and Postgraduate Course
- Register for virtual Slovis course, hosted by SPR Professionalism committee monthly
- Consider reaching out to potential jobs - some may even interview/offer before fellowship
- Prepare and lead an educational pediatric radiology conference for junior residents

Pediatric Radiology Resources

- SPR membership (free for trainees): <https://www.spr.org/membership-information>
 - Pediatric Radiology Initiative for Mentoring and Enrichment (PRIME) – free mentorship program that pairs early career radiologists (medical students through radiologists 10 years post-fellowship training) with more senior mentors in the field to invest in the growth and development of all SPR members
- Contact Shannon Farmakis (<https://twitter.com/SFarmakisMD>, send direct message) if interested in speaking to a private or hybrid practice pediatric radiologist about the job market, practice types, etc.
- X links: <https://twitter.com/SocPedRad>, <https://twitter.com/PedRadJournal>, <https://twitter.com/pedsimaging>
- Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/SocPedRad/>
- Instagram links: <https://www.instagram.com/PedRadJournal>

Application Tips

Get Organized

- Create a spreadsheet of key details for each program, including application requirements.
 - General program details: PD, coordinator, contact info, deadlines, # positions
 - If you want to do a 2nd year to sub-specialize (e.g. peds neuro), add similar information for each 2nd year program, to which you will usually apply in parallel.
 - Some typical application requirements: application form, CV, personal statement, medical school diploma, transcript, MSPE, USMLE Step exam transcript, medical license number, LORs
- When interviewing, consider a separate sheet for interviewer details, for example:
 - Name, position, specialty, email/contact info
 - Miscellaneous notes
 - Thank you letter completed, if sending
- Ask for your residency program coordinator's help with submitting LORs. Once your letter-writers have accepted your requests, provide your coordinator a spreadsheet containing the following information for each program:
 - Institution name, PD name, how the letters to that program should be addressed, their instructions to submit LORs, their deadline for LORs, and which letter-writers you would like to use for that program.

Write your Personal Statement

- Ideally, the process of writing a personal statement is an opportunity for deep introspection. Focusing on this at first rather than on producing a polished essay will help open you up to learning more about yourself. For most people, this self-reflection is less anxiety-provoking than presenting yourself to an external audience. After reflecting without so much stress, you will be able to write about yourself with more confidence.

- Consider what you want the PD to know that won't be evident in your CV and LORs. It is OK to talk about experiences you have in your CV, but try to either add your perspective/reflections or synthesize the experiences into a meaningful story.
- In general, at least 20% of your personal statement should be focused on your future vision. What practice setting do you hope to end up in? What distribution of work (clinical, research, teaching, administrative, other) would you like to do there? What further training and experience do you need to get to that position, and how does that match what this fellowship program offers?

Interview like a Pro

- Prepare for typical behavioral interview questions. Consider what skills and personality traits you would like to demonstrate, especially if not well-explored in your application package. It can be helpful to reflect upon your life to select a few illustrative stories and experiences.
- That said, interviews tend not to be that stressful unless you make them so. It's a relaxed community, and everywhere you go you'll find people who want you to thrive, wherever you may end up. So, relax and look forward to talking with cool, smart people about where you are and where you want to go.

Application Resources

- List of Pediatric Radiology Fellowship programs (first year):
 - [ACGME-Accredited Program Search](#)
 - Select "Pediatric Radiology" under "Search by Specialty", then click "Search" to get all accredited programs
 - For any given program, click "View Program" for more info
 - Useful info: Name, City, State, PD name, Coordinator name + email, # of approved positions and # of filled positions
- [2nd Year Program List](#)
- [Sample organizational spreadsheet](#) to keep track of program details, which can be adapted as needed

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Application Tips and Resources from the Early Career & Training Committee, used with their permission (Vishesh Jain, MD and Morgan McLuckey, MD)

Reference Only Disclaimer:

This document was collated by the SPR members named above, who seek to encourage and support residents in furthering their training in pediatric radiology. This document is provided as a guide for your reference only and does not serve as the only plan or approach to applying for a position in a pediatric radiology fellowship. The SPR nor its members are responsible for the outcome(s) should you use this document as a guide.