

Strategies for Selecting your Choices

The FRESH Program goal: Match as many applicants with appropriate externships as possible.

Filling externships is a more important criterion than your choice order of preference. If you are the only applicant for a listing, regardless if it is your first, second, or fifth choice, you will be automatically matched with that externship.

There are no guarantees to be placed, though for students who keep an open mind about opportunities, we regularly match 97-98% of FRESH applicants through the two application Rounds.

Round 1

After single-applicant externships are filled, the computer system suggests matches by considering: sponsor preferences, student choice, and corresponding college and/or major of sponsor to student. Then we review the introduction essay responses and resume to determine whether the listing would be an appropriate match.

If your goal is to have an externship rather than an experience with a specific specialty or organization, we strongly recommend students check their choices regularly. If the number of FRESH applications reaches 6-8 for a sponsor requesting only one extern, change your choice to another listing with fewer applicants.

In Case of a Tie

In the case of ties, applications are reviewed by staff who consider a variety of variables, primarily which student will benefit most from the externship based on the student's essays, previous exposure to the career field, academic background, prior externship experience.

Recommendations:

- Make sure you meet all sponsor requirements, including other requirements and other preferences; and have not previously completed that sponsor's externship.
- Your introduction essays must give the sponsor direction as to what the you hope to gain from the experience and to indicate how your interests and goals are an appropriate fit for the externship.

Primary Reasons Students Go Unmatched

- Not following instructions. (Review the application instructions and follow your checklist carefully.)
- Submitting an application after the deadline.
- Poor grammar or typos.
- Superficial or incomplete introduction essays.
- Essays that do not articulate an interest or connection with the sponsor's externship description.
- Applying only to externships with many applicants.

Open Round

The Open Round application process webpage will be published on February 10. Students who applied in Round 1 and were not matched will have priority. Open Round placements are on a first-come, first-assigned basis. Upperclassmen are eligible to apply at the end of Open Round.