

SNS Policy on External Medical Student Rotations during the COVID-19 pandemic

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the usual scheduling of Sub-internships, Acting-internships, and away medical school rotations in neurosurgery (Sub-Is) pose a challenge. **Safety, education, and equity** for our students, our institutions, our patients, and our communities are paramount in the following decisions.

External rotations for medical students are integral to the application process for:

1. Student experience in the depth and breadth of neurological surgery prior to committing to a specialty.
2. Education in preparation for internship.
3. Letters of recommendation to assist programs in the evaluation of medical student applicants.

Recommendations for external rotations for the 2021-2022 recruitment cycle have been made by the [AAMC](#). In order to ensure a safe and equitable experience for all students and all programs during this pandemic, the specialty of neurosurgery will abide by these recommendations, as described below:

1. **Each neurosurgery applicant will be limited to one (1) external neurosurgery rotation, which must start on or after August 1, 2021.**
2. **Given the importance of the applicant experience in neurological surgery prior to committing to a career path, each student should do 1-2 rotations of neurological surgery at their home institution (minimum of 4 weeks).**
 - a. **Students without a home program should perform 2 rotations of neurological surgery at the closest ACGME accredited program (adopted home program), or 1 rotation at the “adopted home program” and 1 external rotation.**
 - b. **Virtual rotations are not a substitution for in-person neurosurgical rotations.**
 - c. **The SNS encourages students to gain a diversity of experience and education through a broad spectrum of subspecialty medical and surgical rotations in preparation for residency.**
3. **Direction regarding interviews and letters of recommendation will be forthcoming.**

The SNS will continue to closely monitor the situation and issue new guidance as necessary.