

RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Specialty: Radiation Oncology

Advisor for Specialty (if you had one): Dr. Rani Anne

Did you use ERAS or SFMatch or Other: ERAS

Number of programs applied to: 35 Was this number sufficient? YES

Number of interviews attended for specialty: 10 Was this number sufficient? YES

Interview season: 11/2 to 2/10

Typical structure of interview day: Really variable, most places start with an overview of the program given by the program director followed by a short philosophical anecdote by the chairmen. The day proceeds in one of two ways: you either start the interview carousel by meeting with each one of the attendings/physicists/radiation biologists for approx. 20 mins each for the rest of an exhausting day that at some point includes a tour of the department/hospital or you wait around with the other applicants for your 45 min or so with the residency selection panel and do a group interview followed by a tour and more waiting around.

Popular topics covered in the interviews: Why chose radiation oncology, rotations in the field, research experience, explanation of any research projects, why you chose to apply to their program, interest in their geographical location, hobbies/outside interests, strengths/weaknesses, prefer academic vs. private practice.

Some difficult questions/unusual tasks (tying knots, etc.): A lot of questions aimed at trying to figure out if Jefferson (as my home school and a very strong radiation oncology program) was going to be my top choice. A lot of “well you probably want to stay at Jefferson, don’t you” comments.

How did you prepare for your interviews? Tried to learn which attendings specialized in what disease sites from the web- not always possible. Otherwise just printed out good maps so that I wouldn’t get lost/be late

Did you do an away rotation in your specialty field? YES at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

Did you find this helpful as an applicant? Yes, very helpful, be prepared to compare and contrast the away institution with the other places you have done rotations. Rad onc is a small field so getting a letter of rec from someone famous can be beneficial though not ‘necessary’.

Additional comments/advice: Good luck, sometimes you will wonder if you will match but things worked out for me so overall it has been a good experience. There are a ton of good applicants and many with extensive research experience/phd. I don’t know how you compete with that as an MD with modest/trivial research experience- but have something (anything) to talk about for research and sell your strengths as a bright person, hard worker, dependable, easy to get along with, gregarious person with dedication to cancer care.

May future applicants in your specialty contact you for advice? Email: anytime- ejw104@jefferson.edu.

I matched at Jeff and will be doing a TY at Einstein so look me up I’d be happy to help you out.
