

2026 ACE RMO Intake (2027 Training Year) Applicant & Employer Timeline	
Pre-application Preparation	
October/November 2026	<b>5th Year Presentations:</b> ACE presents to 5th Year students as part of their TI Orientation Day.
December 2025 – January 2026	<b>ACE Communications:</b> ACE begins scheduled communications via the ACE RMO website and Med Schools.
ACE RMO Intake Opens	
9am Monday, 9 March 2026	<b>Applications Open:</b> The application process for the intake opens allowing students to start applying online. Applicants can register and create an ACE RMO profile to collect references prior to this.
April – May 2026 (Exact dates will be circulated via FB, Medical Student Associations and Universities)	<b>ACE RMO Employer Webinars (Roadshow Process):</b> Live MS Teams webinars scheduled per district.
Friday, 19 June 2026	<b>Registration Cutoff:</b> 2 weeks to close. Applicants should have started their application and have already sent three reference requests prior to this time to allow sufficient time for referees to complete the form.
12noon (NZT) Friday, 3 July 2026	<b>Applications Close:</b> ACE reviews all incomplete applications and contacts any applicants who can reasonably complete the application by COB. All complete applications are sent email confirmation.
6 - 10 July 2026	<b>Application Assessments:</b> ACE will assess all completed applications against the national framework criteria and create spreadsheets for each employer of those applicants who have nominated them as one of their preferred employers. The spreadsheets list the applicants in order of highest to lowest score.
4pm Monday, 13 July 2026	<b>Applications Sent to Employers:</b> Once ACE assessment and scoring have been completed ACE makes all applications available for viewing/downloading by the employers for their selection and ranking process.
Tuesday, 14 July 2026	<b>Ranking Process Begins:</b> Employers have 3 weeks to make their ranking and selections and submit to ACE.
Tuesday, 4 August 2026	<b>Employers Send ACE PGY1 Vacancy Numbers and Ranked Applicant Lists:</b> By 4pm, employers must input their rankings and their final number of graduates to be hired into the ACE RMO Portal.
5 - 7 August 2026	<b>Electronic Match and Audit Conducted:</b> ACE conducts the electronic match, audits match results.
10 - 14 August 2026	<b>ACE Contacts Employers with Vacancies &amp; Unmatched Category 1 Applicants:</b> ACE will contact all employers who have vacancies remaining after the electronic match and request that they rank any unmatched Category 1 applicants. ACE will also contact unmatched Category 1 applicants and advise them to preference any employers who have vacancies after the Electronic Match.
12noon (NZT) Monday, 17 August 2026	<b>Employers and Unmatched Cat Ones Return Additional Ranked Options:</b> Employers and Category 1 applicants who have been asked to rank additional options must return their updated rankings by 12noon.
17 - 20 August 2026	<b>Manual Match Process:</b> ACE has 4 days to perform the final manual match process and compiles spread sheets for distribution to employers nationwide on Thursday, 20 August 2026.
Monday, 24 August 2026	<b>Final Match Results Sent to Applicants:</b> ACE emails all applicants letting them know if they are successful or not. ACE notifies ALL applicants simultaneously via email whether they have been successful or not.
Monday, 31 August 2026	<b>Employers Offer Letters:</b> Employers send offer letters directly to successfully matched applicants formally offering them their position. These must be sent by 5pm. Employers also have one week to complete any pre-offer safety checks required before releasing official offers to matched candidates. All matched graduates must be offered on this nationally agreed date, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
ACE RMO Intake Closes	
Tuesday, 2 September 2026	<b>National Talent Pool Sent to Employers:</b> ACE compiles and opens the national talent pool for employers. ACE also sends an Excel copy of spreadsheet to employers manually as this includes the ACE scores while the live Talent Pool spreadsheet doesn't. This involves compiling a single spreadsheet of all remaining applicants who have not yet been matched and sending this to all employers. Employers use this list to fill any remaining or subsequent PGY1 positions.
Monday, 7 September 2026	<b>Candidates Accept or Decline Employer Offers:</b> Successfully matched graduates have 1 week to accept or reject offers and respond to the employer. If they have not responded by this time, they are assumed to be rejecting the offer and the position will be offered to another applicant. The applicant who did not respond will then also be removed from this intake altogether as per the rules following rejection of an offer.
Tuesday, 8 September 2026	<p><b>National Talent Pool Opens:</b> ACE compiles and opens the national talent pool for employers. ACE also sends an Excel copy of spreadsheet to employers manually as this includes the ACE scores while the live Talent Pool spreadsheet doesn't. This involves compiling a single spreadsheet of all remaining applicants who have not yet been matched and sending this to all employers.</p> <p>All unmatched applicants are placed in the Talent Pool automatically. There is no category priority applied to the applicants in the talent pool and the districts can review and select any unmatched applicant. Talent Pool applicants who are prepared to accept jobs with other districts can communicate with the recruitment contacts at those districts and discuss options for PGY1 positions should future vacancies arise.</p>
Wednesday, 9 September 2026	<b>Acceptances/Declines:</b> Employers must notify to ACE of any applicant who has declined or not responded to their offer.
Monday, 18 January 2027	Successfully matched RMO graduates begin work with employers, starting dates may vary.
Talent Pool Closes Friday, 2 August 2027	