

2021 AO Spine Asia Pacific Fellowship Guidelines

As the leading global academic community for innovative education in spine care, AO Spine not only organizes courses and forums suited for different participants, but also supports many of our members to international, regional and national observational fellowships.

AO Spine fellowships provide the following benefits:

- Additional experience in surgical techniques for fully trained orthopaedics and neurosurgeons interested in spine surgery
- Sponsor stipend from AO Spine
- Exposure to the professional network of AO Spine Spine Centers
- Additional clinical experience for fellows
- Obtain a fellowship certification upon completion of fellowship program

Types of Fellowship and Duration

Observer Fellow:	2 weeks and below
Visiting Fellow:	3 weeks – 8 weeks
Long-term Fellow:	9 weeks – 12 months

**You may extend your fellowship as long-term non-AO fellowship if this is available in your preferred AO Spine Spine Center (subject to change and center's final decision). Please check details here: <https://l.ead.me/bbUAbn>*

Fellowship Criteria

(for AO Spine Australia & New Zealand Council, AO Spine China Council, AO Spine East Asia Council, AO Spine Japan Council, AO Spine Korea Council)

An AO Spine fellowship applicant must fulfill the following criteria:

1. Proof of being a Medical Doctor and an orthopaedic or neurosurgery specialist
2. Proof of being a current AO Spine member and an applicant with one full year of membership will have higher priority
(mandatory for all awarded fellows to have at least one full year of membership in the fellowship year.)
3. A CV including:
 - Proof of training
 - Proof of interest in Spine Surgery
4. Two current reference letters:
(template to be downloaded here: <https://l.ead.me/bbUDNO>)
 - At least one from an AO Spine member
 - One preferably from a senior surgeon affiliated with an institution
5. Having had no similar AO Spine fellowship during the last two years
6. Must have attended one AO Spine event within the last two years
(For applicants who have not attended any AO Spine event before, they are required to register and attend at least one AO Spine event in the coming year.)
7. Be a graduate of a spine program or be in an orthopaedic or neurosurgery residency for at least two years
8. Have some previous experience on spine surgery and its related or AOTK-approved implants
9. A list of publications and/or lectures written or delivered by the applicant

(Preferably published at least one to two spine/orthopaedics/neurosurgery related articles in peer review journal)

10. Copy of valid practicing license
11. Proposed research plan (*max. 500 words*) (*mandatory for applicants who apply for 9 weeks or above fellowship. Successful applicants are required to submit a research project after the fellowship. AOSAP Spine Center – List of research topics: <https://l.ead.me/bbUOdu>*)
12. English Proficiency Test Result (e.g. IELTS, TOEFL etc.) for applicant from non-English speaking countries and apply for regional and international fellowship
13. Preferably 45 years of age or younger

Fellowship Criteria

(for AO Spine Indian Subcontinent Council)

AOSIN Short-Term Introductory Observership

1. Proof of being a Medical Doctor and an orthopaedic or neurosurgery specialist
2. Proof of being a current AO Spine member
(Mandatory for all awarded fellows to have at least three full years of membership after the fellowship year.)
3. A CV including:
 - Proof of training
 - Proof of interest in Spine Surgery
4. Two current reference letters:
(template to be downloaded here: <https://l.ead.me/bbUDN0>)
 - At least one from an AO Spine member
 - One preferably from a senior surgeon affiliated with an institution
5. Having had no similar AO Spine fellowship and fellowship from other spine societies in the past
(For applicants who have attended AOSIN Short-Term Introductory Observership in India, they can apply for an AO Spine National Fellowship in India the following year after completion of AOSIN Short-Term Introductory Observership in India.)
6. Must have attended one AO Spine event within the last two years
(For applicants who have not attended any AO Spine event before, they are required to register and attend at least one AO Spine event in the coming year.)
7. Be a graduate of a spine program or be in an orthopaedic or neurosurgery residency for at least 1 year before application
8. A list of publications and/or lectures written or delivered by the applicant (Preferably published at least one to two spine/orthopaedics/neurosurgery related articles in peer review journal)
9. Copy of valid practicing license
10. Preferably 40 years of age or younger

AO Spine National Fellowship

(Applied to Self-funded Fellowship as well)

1. Proof of being a Medical Doctor and an orthopaedic or neurosurgery specialist
2. Proof of being a current AO Spine member with one full year of membership before application
(Mandatory for all awarded fellows to have at least three full years of membership after the fellowship year.)
3. A CV including:
 - Proof of training
 - Proof of interest in Spine Surgery

4. Two current reference letters:
(*template to be downloaded here: <https://l.ead.me/bbUDN0>*)
 - At least one from an AO Spine member
 - One preferably from a senior surgeon affiliated with an institution
5. Having had no similar AO Spine fellowship during the last two years
(*Applicants must have attended an AO Spine National Fellowship in India before applying for an AO Spine fellowship outside India. Applicants can apply one year after completion of AO Spine National Fellowship in India.*)
6. Must have attended one AO Spine event within the last two years
(*For applicants who have not attended any AO Spine event before, they are required to register and attend at least one AO Spine event in the coming year.*)
7. Be a graduate of a spine program or be in an orthopaedic or neurosurgery residency for at least 2 year
8. Have some previous experience on spine surgery and its related or AOTK-approved implants
9. A list of publications and/or lectures written or delivered by the applicant (Preferably published at least one to two spine/orthopaedics/neurosurgery related articles in peer review journal)
10. Copy of valid practicing license
11. Proposed research plan (*max. 500 words*) (*mandatory for applicants who apply for 9 weeks or above fellowship. Successful applicants are required to submit a research project after the fellowship. AOSAP Spine Center – List of research topics: <https://l.ead.me/bbUOdu>*)
12. Preferably 45 years of age or younger

AO Spine Regional/ International Fellowship

(Applied to Self-funded Fellowship as well)

1. Proof of being a Medical Doctor and an orthopaedic or neurosurgery specialist
2. Proof of being a current AO Spine member and an applicant with one full year of membership before application
(*Mandatory for all awarded fellows to have at least three full years of membership after the fellowship year.*)
3. A CV including:
 - Proof of training
 - Proof of interest in Spine Surgery
4. Two current reference letters:
(*template to be downloaded here: <https://l.ead.me/bbUDN0>*)
 - At least one from an AO Spine member
 - One preferably from a senior surgeon affiliated with an institution
5. Having had no similar AO Spine fellowship during the last two years
(*Applicants must have attended an AO Spine National Fellowship in India before applying for an AO Spine fellowship outside India. Applicants can apply one year after completion of AO Spine National Fellowship in India.*)
6. Must have attended one AO Spine event within the last two years
7. Be a graduate of a spine program or be in an orthopaedic or neurosurgery residency for at least 2 year
8. Have some previous experience on spine surgery and its related or AOTK-approved implants
9. A list of publications and/or lectures written or delivered by the applicant (Preferably published at least one to two spine/orthopaedics/neurosurgery related articles in peer review journal)

10. English Proficiency Test Result (e.g. IELTS, TOEFL etc.) for applicant from non-English speaking countries and apply for regional and international fellowship
11. Previous AO Spine National Fellowship Certificate
(Applicants must have attended an AO Spine National Fellowship in India before applying for an AO Spine fellowship outside India. Applicants can apply one year after completion of AO Spine National Fellowship in India.)
12. Copy of valid practicing license
13. Proposed research plan (max. 500 words) (mandatory for applicants who apply for 9 weeks or above fellowship. Successful applicants are required to submit a research project after the fellowship. AOSAP Spine Center – List of research topics: <https://l.ead.me/bbUOdu>)
14. Preferably 45 years of age or younger

Application

If you would like to apply for AO Spine Fellowship, please complete the online application form: https://aospine-fellowships.aofoundation.org/sites/forms/sites/AP_confirm.html submit along with the supporting documents listed online **by 30 June 2020** for 2021 fellowship program.

Please only start to complete the online application form until you have all this information ready, as you cannot save the form until all information has been entered and ALL mandatory documentation uploaded. Please submit your application for one time only.

Brochure of 29 AO Spine Asia Pacific Spine Centers: <http://l.ead.me/bb5w9v>

You can also read more information on the list of AO Spine Spine Centers worldwide using the following link: <https://aospine.aofoundation.org/en/education/fellowship#centers>

During the Fellowship

The fellow must agree and follow AO Spine Asia Pacific Fellowship Standardized Program with participation in in-League (AOSAP Webinars), AOSAP Research Online Education Program, Research Project (long-term fellowship), and AOSAP Fellows' Reading List.

The fellow is expected to follow the daily routine of the clinic and should be available for emergencies at night and on weekends.

Temporary leave of absence needs approval from the head of the clinic. If, for some reasons, the fellow wishes to change the placement or leave prior to completion of the allotted period, permission must be sought from the head of the clinic, and the AO Spine Regional Board.

Post Fellowship

Upon completion of fellowship, the fellow has to submit the following document within 30 days:

- Fellowship Feedback Form (with AO Spine template)
- Fellowship Operative Care Logbook (with AO Spine template)
- Fellowship Report (About 500 words with 4 – 5 photos)
- Research Report
- Each fellow will receive the fellowship certificate from AO Spine upon completion
- The fellow is obligated to deliver a presentation about the fellowship experience, at least once, in an AO Spine Asia Pacific event upon request.