



AOSPINE SOUTH AFRICAN LONG-TERM FELLOWSHIP—GUIDELINES

Introduction

Quality, consistency and academic qualification are key elements to a fellowship program. To ensure we achieve these criteria it is necessary to reaffirm the principles behind and guidelines for AOSpine long-term fellowships in South Africa, as part of the AOSpine Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa (AOSEU) fellowship program.

This offer is exclusively for African residents.

Aims

The purpose of an AOSEU fellowship is to provide additional experience for trained orthopedic and neurosurgeons interested in spinal surgery. It is the responsibility of the host center to ensure that the fellow becomes conversant in the principles, indications, planning, techniques and complications of spinal surgery and develop the hands on surgical skills for general spinal practice. Fellows are expected to enthusiastically immerse themselves in all aspects of the program offered by the host center.

Spine Center

AOSEU long-term fellowships are offered uniquely at the Groote Schuur Hospital (Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Cape Town), Cape Town, South Africa, under the leadership of Spine Center Director Robert Dunn.

Duration

AOSpine long-term fellowships run one year, from 1 January to 31 December, if not agreed otherwise.

Support

An AOSEU stipend is sent to the Spine Center, and paid to the fellow as a monthly salary. The stipend is calculated in order to cover the costs for food and accommodation in the host country. All travel expenses are the responsibility of the fellow or sponsor.

Fellowship Application

Fellows have to apply at least 12 months before they want to start their fellowship.

An AOSEU fellowship is granted at the discretion of AOSEU, based upon the candidate's application and experience. Successful candidates must meet the following criteria:



- Live and work in an African country.
- Submit a complete online application form and required documents in time (12 months before desired start of fellowship)

Required documents are: Curriculum vitae, Copy of medical school diploma, Copy of the most recent AOSpine course certificate, Letter of recommendation from your superior, Letter of recommendation from one other professional, 1 recent passport sized photograph, English Language proficiency (mandatory if mother tongue not English)

- Be a member of AOSpine
- Have completed an orthopedic or neurosurgery residency by the time the fellowship starts.
- Have a strong interest in spine surgery
- Have previously participated in an AOSpine event
- Have not participated in any other AO fellowship within the past two years
- Have or be eligible for registration with Health Profession Council of South Africa

Applications will only be accepted using the official application form on the AOSpine website. AOSEU will examine the application, and send it to the Spine Center Director for a final decision. This process may take up to 3 months.

Coordination & Contact

Prospective fellows are welcome to contact the director, Prof Dunn, for additional information on info@spinesurgery.co.za, but the formal application has to be via the AOSpine website. General AOSpine fellowship questions can be directed to fellowshipsEU@aospine.org.

Confirmation & Changes

AOSEU must receive confirmation of acceptance within 1 month after a fellowship has been offered. The arrangement is then considered binding. If no response is received within 1 month, AOSEU shall be free to reassign the fellowship to another candidate.

Any later subsequent wish for change of timing or location may jeopardize the fellowship. Furthermore if a fellow cannot fulfill the requirements set out in this document, AOSEU may consider early termination of the fellowship.

If a fellow fails to participate to an agreed level or has compromised the learning experience through failure to attend the center, no certificate will be awarded and future tenures through AOSEU may be jeopardized.

During the Fellowship

The fellow is expected to follow the daily routine of the center and should be available for emergencies at night and on weekends. This is an active "hands on" fellowship where the



fellow will be expected to participate in all department clinical, research and teaching activities with increasing responsibility as his/her skills develop throughout the year.

English is the first language in South Africa. Fellows have to be fluent in English to be granted an AOSpine long-term fellowship at the Groote Schuur.

The fellows will be appointed as a supernumerary staff member of Groote Schuur Hospital and enjoy the medico-legal protection offered to all other staff. The fellow may choose to source additional insurance. AOSpine does not cover any insurance against accident, illness or malpractice.

Evaluations

During the fellowship there will be academic and clinical assessments with continuous feedback to the fellow. Following completion of the fellowship, a confidential evaluation form must be completed and returned to AOSEU within 1 month. This is a mandatory requirement for each fellow to receive the AOSEU fellowship certification.

The Spine Center is also required to complete a confidential evaluation form upon completion of each fellowship.