

The quality and consistency are key elements of the AOSpine fellowship program. To ensure we achieve these goals, it is necessary to reaffirm the principles, and rules of an AOSpine fellowship.

Basic aim

The purpose of the AOSpine fellowship is to provide further experience in AO techniques for trained orthopaedic and neurosurgeons interested in spinal surgery.

It is the responsibility of the institution to make the attending fellow conversant in the principles, indications, planning, techniques, and complications of spinal surgery.

Fellows are expected to enthusiastically immerse themselves in all aspects of the program provided by the AOSpine Spine Center.

Global centers

AOSpine fellowships are currently offered in AOSpine Spine Centers, which are hospitals or clinics worldwide.

Please visit the AOSpine website for the list of Spine centers:

<http://www.aospine.org/referencecenters.aspx>

AOSpine offer

The fellowship stipend is sent to the host clinic, this allowance is meant to cover reasonable accommodation, meals, and living expenses. Most clinics provide only simple accommodation for the fellow. If other accommodation (e.g. family) is requested, the fellow must organise and cover this expense personally, or find other sponsorship. The travel expenses are the responsibility of the fellow or the sponsor.

AOSpine—the leading global academic community for innovative education and research in spine care, inspiring lifelong learning and improving patients' lives.



AOSpine Asia Pacific Fellowship



Fellowship types

Fellowships are only awarded at AOSpine accredited institutions.

There are three types of AOSpine fellowships:

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|--------------------------|-------------------|
| • Observerships | 1 Days to 2 Weeks |
| • Short-term fellowships | 4 to 12 weeks |
| • Long-term fellowships | 6 to 12 Months |

An applicant must be interested in spinal surgery following AO techniques.

AOSpine fellowship requirement

An AOSpine fellowship applicant have to submit a completed application form at least eight months prior to the fellowship and fulfil the following criteria:

- Be a member of AOSpine
- Be a graduate of a spine program or be in an orthopaedic or neurosurgery residency for at least two years
- Participated in an AOSpine course
- Some previous experience of spine related instrumentation
- Should not have participated in any other AOSpine fellowship within the past two years
- Preferably published at least one to two spine/orthopaedic/neurosurgery related articles in peer reviewed journal

- During the fellowship, the fellow has to submit a monthly fellowship log book signed by the fellowship director
- Upon completion of fellowship, the fellow has to submit the following documents within 30 days to receive the fellowship certificate:

- Fellowship feedback form
- Fellowship logbook
- Fellowship report (~500 words) with photos to post on the AOSpine website

AOSpine fellowship application

An AOSpine fellowship is granted at the complete discretion of AOSpine, based upon the surgeon's application form, degree of experience vis a vis requirements, and availability.

The application form can be download from the AOSpine website (www.aospine.org), click on "Fellowship" under "Spine centers & Fellowships".

Please include the following supporting documents with the application:

- Curriculum vitae
- Copy of medical school diploma
- Copy of an official AOSpine course certificate
- A list of publications and/or lectures written or delivered by the applicant
- Two referee reports by your superiors
- Personal statement
- Proof of language skills in English

The AOSpine Fellowship Board will examine the application and the fellow will be contacted with their decision.

Please send your application to

Project Manager
AOSpine Asia Pacific
Unit 2605, Miramar Tower, 132 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR

Phone: +852 2581 1797
Fax: +852 2581 1772

AOSpine Fellowship Regulations

Application: Must be sent at least 8 months prior to the requested period of the fellowship.

Preference: The candidate may express his preference for a clinic with his application; the final decision will however be made by the responsible member of AOSpine,

Contact: No direct arrangement between a fellowship applicant and a specific clinic is permissible until the fellowshp have been confirmed.

Family: AOSpine do not support the expenses of family accompany the fellow on his/her fellowship.

Confirmation: AOSpine must receive confirmation of acceptance within one month after the fellowship has been granted. The arrangement is then considered as a binding contract. If no response is received within that period, AOSpine shall be free to assign the place to another candidate based on the application and availability of places.

Changes: Any later wishes for change of dates or places may endanger the entire fellowship. If a fellow cannot fulfil the regulations mentioned herein, the head of the clinic may propose to the AOSpine Asia Pacific Spine Center and Fellowship Committee a premature termination of the stay. Should this change of dates leads to cancellation of accommodation, the cancellation fee will be responsible by the fellow.

Working hours: The fellow is expected to follow the daily routine of the clinic and should be available for emergencies at night and on weekends if requested. Active participation as scrubbed assistant should be possible for long-term tenures.

Leave of absence: Temporary leave of absence needs approval from the head of the clinic. If, for some reason, 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 AOSpine Asia Pacific Spine Center and Fellowship Committee..