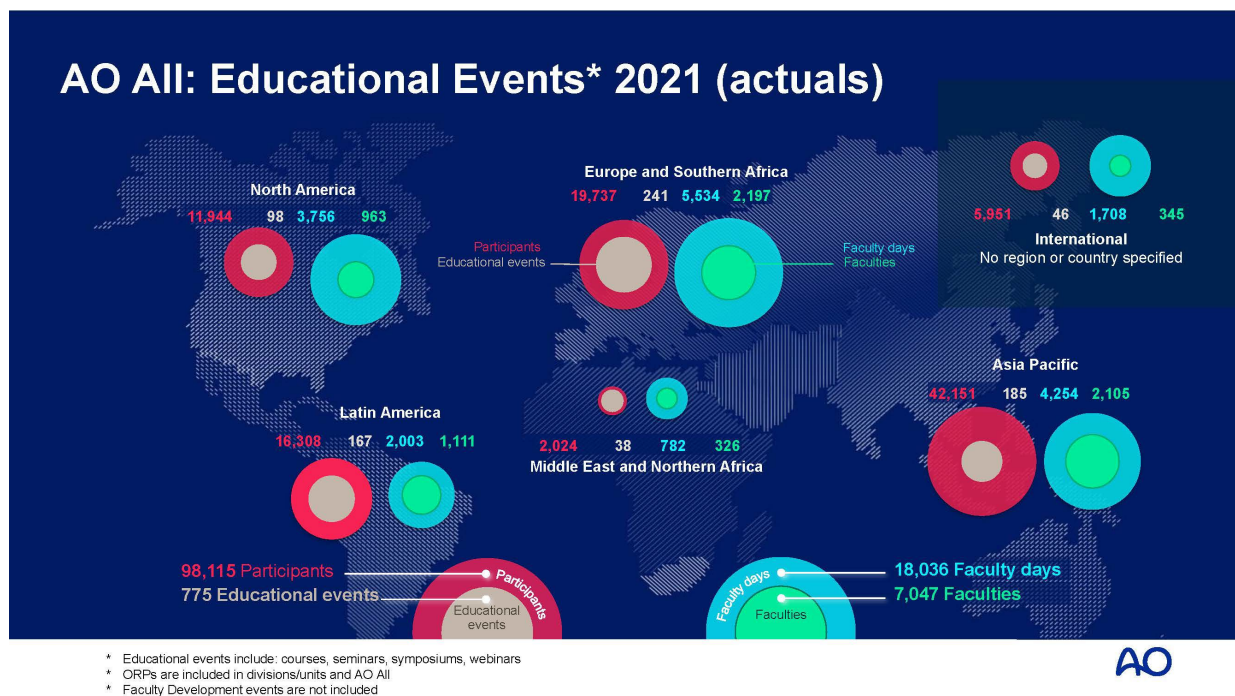


## AO Fellowship in Medical Education Research

The AO Foundation (<https://www.aofoundation.org/>) is a medically guided, not-for-profit organization based in Switzerland, created to improve the surgical treatment of trauma and disorders of the musculoskeletal system. The AO Education Institute (<https://www.aofoundation.org/what-we-do/education>) (AO EI) supports the development of medical education of our healthcare professionals network, and it is actively engaged in medical education research.

Each year we offer over 775 educational events around the world, supported by 7,000 faculty and attended by over 98,000 participants.

*Our global environment: 775 educational events in 2021 grouped by region.*



### Aims of the fellowship program

The AO EI is offering a group of selected fellows the opportunity to conduct **research in postgraduate surgical education in a global environment** to build more evidence in the field of continuous professional development (CPD) for surgeons.

**We offer this fellowship to further contribute to the body of research in medical education and therefore reinforce our commitment to improving performance and patient outcomes through education.** Since 2011, the AO EI has been deeply involved in medical education research projects, published in leading journals in the field, and presented at major medical educational conferences. In addition, the AO is actively engaged with prominent associations and societies for CPD to share best practices and keep moving forward.

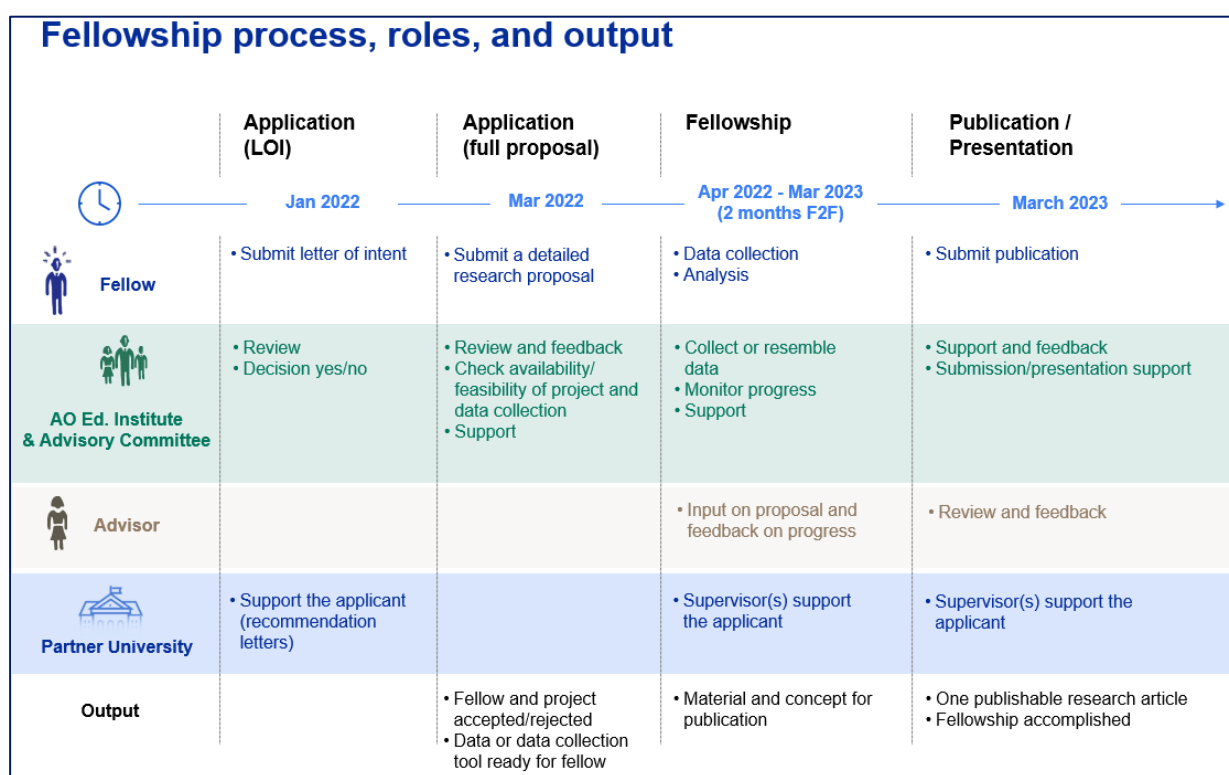
**Fellows will have access to an international professional network and data to conduct their research. Support is provided by AO employees and an external eminent educational expert (advisor).** Fellows also have the opportunity to learn about a not-for-profit global medical education organization and build a personal network.

## Fellowship description

We are offering two fellowships for 2022 for a value of CHF 23,000 each. **The fellowship experience is individualized** based on the project. **The maximum duration is expected to be twelve months** with the possibility of visiting our office in Zurich, Switzerland, for up to two months.

The budget is used to cover project-related costs (no direct payment to the candidate). Examples of cost coverage are reported in the section "Fellowship offer."

During the fellowship period, the fellow is expected to attend a monthly meeting with the AO EI research manager and the assigned advisor to report the project progress and receive feedback. Involvement of the fellow's supervisor in the meetings is highly recommended.

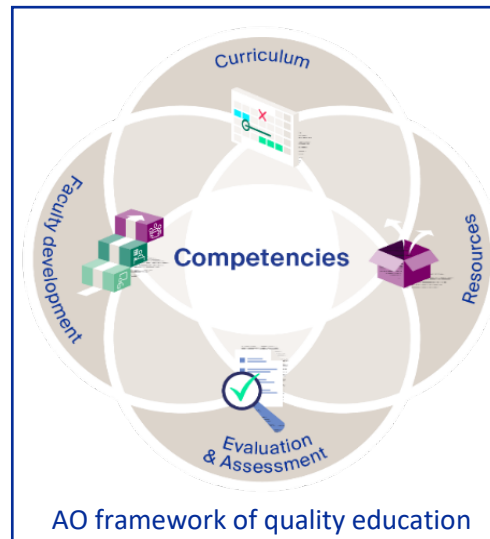


## Eligibility

- Applicants must be enrolled in a medical education program at one of our partner institutions
- Applicants must be proficient in spoken and written English

## Call for proposals: priority interests

We encourage to submit projects related to **surgeons' CPD**. Further, we encourage applicants to consider concepts proposed in the AO framework of quality education shown below. Proposals will not be restricted to a particular methodological approach or topic area within CPD and learning. We remain open to the ideas of the scientific and academic CPD communities.



## Timelines

- Letters of intent and supporting documents are due no later than Monday, January 31, 2022
- The applications will be reviewed by members of the AO EI Advisory Committee
- Selected candidates will be notified if they are invited to proceed to the full proposal in mid-February 2022
- Full proposals will be due on Monday, March 14, 2022
- We expect to notify the decision by the beginning of April 2022
- Start of fellowship: April 2022

## Expected outcome

At the end of the fellowship, we expect:

- A synopsis of progress
- One publishable research article
- One presentation at a congress

The finished work must be appropriate for publication in a health professions education journal or equivalent peer-reviewed journal.

## Role of the partner institution

The role of the partner institution is to advertise the AO fellowship program among the students enrolled in their medical education program. The head of the medical education program and the supervisor should, in addition, support the applicant by writing a recommendation letter.

## Sponsor

AO Foundation and its clinical divisions and unit (AO Trauma, AO Spine, AO CMF, AO VET, and AO Recon) through the AO EI.

## **Fellowship offer** (will be tailored to the project)

- Tutoring and support by the AO EI employees
- Cost coverage for consultation with an external advisor (expert in medical education selected from our network depending on the research topic) for 24 hours or more
- Possibility to attend AO educational events (cost coverage for travel and accommodation)
- Cost coverage for travel to and from Switzerland
- Cost coverage for visa arrangements
- Accommodation in Zurich for one person for up to two months
- Travelcard for local public transportation valid for two months
- Two-month usage of a phone sim card for national calls
- Cost coverage for article submission
- Cost coverage for a congress to present the project results.

## **Application process for fellows**

Submit the following documents by email to [monica.ghidinelli@aofoundation.org](mailto:monica.ghidinelli@aofoundation.org):

- Letter of intent (LOI)
- Curriculum vitae (CV), maximum two pages with a list of publications and major lectures/presentations at conferences
- Recommendation letter(s) (from your medical education program lead and your supervisor/chairperson).

## **Questions**

Please direct any questions about the fellowship and the application to Dr. Monica Ghidinelli at [monica.ghidinelli@aofoundation.org](mailto:monica.ghidinelli@aofoundation.org).