

AO EI Fellowship in Medical Education Research

1. Introduction

The **AO Foundation** 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** (AO EI) supports the development of medical education of our health care professionals' network and it is actively engaged in medical education research.

Each year we offer over 870 educational events around the world, supported by nearly 8,000 faculty and attended by more than 82,600 participants.

2. Aims of the fellowship program

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

Through this endeavor, we reaffirm our dedication to enhancing surgical performance and patient outcomes through education.

3. Fellowship description

We are offering two fellowships for 2026 for a value of 15,000 CHF each. **The fellowship experience will be individualized** based on the project. **The maximal duration is expected to be 12 months**.

The budget will be 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 interim meetings** with the AO Education Institute research manager to report the project progress and receive feedback. Involvement of the fellow's supervisor in the meetings is recommended.

4. Eligibility

- Applicants must be enrolled in a Medical Education Program preferentially at one of our **partner institutions**
- Applicants must be proficient in spoken and written English

Fellowship process, roles, and output

	Application (LOI)	Application (full proposal)	Fellowship	Publication / Presentation
 Fellow	May 2026 • Submit letter of intent	June 2026 • Submit a detailed research proposal	Oct 2026 – Sept 2027 • Data collection • Analysis	Sept 2027 • Submit publication
 AO Ed. Institute	• Review • Decision yes/no	• Review and feedback • Check availability/ feasibility of project and data collection • Support	• Collect or resemble data • Monitor progress • Support	• Support and feedback • Submission/presentation support
 Partner University	• Support the applicant (recommendation letters)		• Supervisor(s) support the applicant	• Supervisor(s) support the applicant
Output		• Fellow and project accepted/rejected • Data or data collection tool ready for fellow	• Material and concept for publication	• One publishable research article • Fellowship accomplished

5. Priority interests

We encourage to submit projects related to **surgeons' continuing professional development (CPD) and residents' education**. Proposals will not be restricted to a particular methodological approach or topic area within CPD and learning.

Examples of fellow's research projects are available in our [fellowship in medical education research](#) page and **concluded AO EI research projects** are available in our [research in medical publications and report](#) page.

6. Timelines

May 4, 2026: Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent and supporting documents

May 11, 2026: Notification to selected candidates regarding their invitation to submit a full proposal

June 29, 2026: Deadline for submission of full proposals

July-August 2026: Interviews with shortlisted candidates

September 2026: Results announced

October 2026: Start of fellowship

November 2027: Final report

7. Results and reporting

At the end of the fellowship, we expect:

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

The AO Foundation must be cited as the source of funding in any publication, presentation, or in any publicity resulting from the award or its results.

8. 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 medical education program or the supervisor should in addition support the applicant by writing a recommendation letter.

9. Fellowship offer (will be tailored to the project)

- Coverage of article submission fees
- Coverage of congress/conference related costs for presenting project results (registration, travel, accommodation)
- Coverage for data collection or analysis software
- Tutoring and support from AO Education Institute staff
- Possibility to observe AO educational events (cost coverage for travel and accommodation)

10. Applications

Each applicant must submit their application as word documents by email to Monica Ghidinelli at monica.ghidinelli@aofoundation.org

- **Letter of intent** (LOI) (please use [the AO EI template](#))
- **Curriculum vitae** (CV) of maximum three pages with a list of publications and major lectures/presentations at conferences
- **Recommendation letter(s)** from Medical Education Program lead and/or supervisor.

11. Contact information

Please address all correspondence and questions to Monica Ghidinelli using the details below:

Monica Ghidinelli, PhD
Manager Education Research, Accreditation & Partnerships
Email: monica.ghidinelli@aofoundation.org
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