

2024 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 the 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 to a long-term non-AO fellowship if this is available in your preferred AO Spine Spine Center. Separate communication with the center is required.

Fellowship Criteria

Basic Requirements:

1. Be a graduate of a spine program or be in an orthopaedic or neurosurgery residency for at least two years
2. Have some previous experience on spine surgery and its related or AO TK-approved implants
3. 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)
4. Preferably 45 years of age or younger

AO Related Requirements:

1. An 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.)
2. Did not attend any similar AO Spine fellowship during the last two years (except self-funded)
3. Attended one AO Spine event within the last two years. (For applicants who did not attend any AO Spine event before, they are required to register and attend at least one AO Spine event in the coming year.)

Documents to be submitted upon applications:

An AO Spine fellowship applicant must provide the following documents:

1. Resume with details of
 - a. Professional trainings
 - b. A list of publications and/or lectures being written or delivered by the applicant (Preferably published at least one to two spine/orthopaedics/neurosurgery related articles in peer review journal)
2. Motivation letters in Spine Surgery

3. Copy of a valid practicing license
4. Copy of professional training certificates
5. English Proficiency Test Result (e.g. IELTS, TOEFL etc.) for applicants from non-English speaking countries and apply for regional and international fellowship
6. Two letters of recommendation with referrer institution letterhead and referrer signature:
 - a. At least one from a current AO Spine member
 - b. One preferably from a senior surgeon affiliated with an institution
7. Proposed research plan (max. 500 words)
 - a. mandatory for applicants who apply for 9 weeks or above fellowship.
 - b. Successful applicants are required to submit a research project after the fellowship.
 - c. AO SAP Spine Center – List of research topics:
<https://transfer.aofoundation.org/link/iHCySG8IM1xsiibMOR6NK7>
8. Approval letter for fellowship study leave from the applicant's current hospital director (mandatory for applicants under AO Spine Korea Council)

Application

If you would like to apply for AO Spine Fellowship, please complete the online application form and submit along with the supporting documents listed online. **Please submit your application only within the specified period. Otherwise, your application will not be considered.**

Please only start completing 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.

You can read more information on the list of AO Spine Spine Centers in AP and worldwide on the fellowship website.

During the Fellowship

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

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

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 before the 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 the 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 (long-term fellowship)
- 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.