Education
Fellowship Program

Advancing spine care worldwide
The purpose of the AOSpine Latin America Fellowship Program is to provide an additional improvement experience for orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons interested in spine surgery. It is an opportunity to learn the principles, designations, planning, techniques, and complications related to spine surgery. As a Fellow you can take advantage of all aspects and benefits offered by the program throughout the worldwide AOSpine network.

You can benefit from two specific programs developed to give you the opportunity to learn the principles of spine surgery or to develop a specific skill. They are:

- Short-Term fellow
- Associate fellow
This training is aimed at surgeons with more than one year of experience in spine surgery who want to improve a specific technique or further their knowledge.

**Length**: 1, 2, 3 or 6 months.

**Stipend**: CHF 1,000 per month up to 3 months / Fixed CHF 3,000 from 3 to 6 months

**Enrollment**: Online application from May to August at [aospine.org>education>fellowship>Latin America](https://aospine.org>education>fellowship>Latin America)

**Application**:
The AOSpine application form is available to be filled at [aospine.org>education>fellowship>Latin America](https://aospine.org>education>fellowship>Latin America). You must attach to the form the following documents:

- Resumé (with papers published).
- Copy of Medical Diploma.
- Copy of Neurosurgery or Orthopedics Diploma.
- Letter of recommendation from a senior surgeon.
- Copy of an AO event certificate (certificates from all clinical divisions are accepted).
- Foreign language certificate*.
- Health Certificate.

**You must also**:

- Be an AOSpine member for at least three years by the subscription deadline.
- Have more than one year of experience as spine surgeon (preferably fellowship trained).
- Apply to the program on time.

* Applicants in countries with language other than their own must formally attest advanced knowledge in English or in the local language (depending upon the center requirements). Proficiency in English is to be attested by an international recognized certificate such as IELTS, TOEFL, or equivalent.
Short-Term Fellow

Certification Requirements:

• Complete the Continuing Education Program (CEP) Level I during the fellowship - every Fellow is automatically enrolled in an exclusive virtual environment within the Continued Education Program as soon as he/she is approved for the fellowship.

• Complete the Logbook - monthly report regarding their activities in the spine center and upload it in a timely manner in the system.

• Send the Fellow feedback report - all fellows must fill in and depose a confidential form evaluating the spine center and its training by the end of the program.

• Develop a Research project - fellows must take part in at least one clinical research project developed by the spine center in accordance with the orientation of the center director.

All the activities listed above are mandatory for receiving the certificate.

General information:

• The Fellow is responsible for their own health and travel insurance valid in the country of destination for the entire duration of the fellowship with full assistance and medical coverage and must follow the requirements of the institution chosen.

• No financial support will be provided to ex-fellows for at least two years after their last AOSpine Fellowship program with stipend. The aim is to encourage new applications while supporting new members in the program. And there will be no financial support to fellows that have chosen the same institution where they did their medical residence.

• Visas and licenses: while attending programs outside their home country all Fellows will be subjected to the local laws and restrictions applied to medical practice by foreigners. Fellows must have in mind that without specific medical licenses, there is no guarantee that they will be allowed to practice surgical procedures during their training and may be restricted to observational activities.

• In order to be certified, all fellows must attend and conclude the online modules of the Continuing Education Program (CEP), according to the selected program, and must submit his/her monthly reports (Logbooks). In the unlikely event of non-compliance with the fellowship duties and/or fellowship cancelation, the fellow in question will be automatically excluded from the virtual learning environment and will lose all program benefits.

• Stipends are paid within four weeks after the fellowship starting date.

• The first payment will only be made after the official confirmation of the fellow’s arrival at the AOSpine Center and confirmation of his/her health insurance documentation.

• Bank transfers can only be made to a bank account in the fellow’s name. AOSpine will not transfer money to a third-party account.

• In accordance with its cash flow policy, AOSpine will decide on the number of payments throughout the fellowship program to be paid to each fellow.

• Participants will be solely responsible for their own travel and accommodation cost and expenses.
Different institutions in different countries have distinct selection processes for residents and fellows. Between December and January of each year, the AOSpine Centers are requested to send the list of approved fellows for their regular programs. The fellows already accepted at an AOSpine Center are entitled to join the community as an Associate Fellow.

**Benefits:**
- AOSpine fellowship certificate after completing the program requirements.
- Access to AOSpine Educational Events as observer (according to available vacancies).
- Access to the educational platform of AOSpine.
- Opportunity to maintain a relationship’s network with the fellow community.
- One-year membership at the beginning of the Associate Fellow Program.

**Length:** 12 to 24 months (according to the Spine Center rules).

**Stipend:** No financial support.

**Enrollment:** The participants must follow the selection process of the institution of interest.

**Application:**
Once started program in a relevant institution, interested fellows must fulfill the application form available on our website at aospine.org>education>fellowship>Latin America. It must be filled only after being accepted in a fellow program of an AOSpine Center. You must attach to the form the following documents:

- Resumé (with papers published).
- Copy of Medical Diploma.
- Copy of Neurosurgery or Orthopedics Diploma.
- Letter of acceptance from the selected AOSpine center.

You also will need to create a free account at aospine.org>login>create account as an AOSpine member registered user in order to fulfill the application successfully.
Certification Requirements:

• Have been accepted in the fellow program of one of the AOSpine Centers according to the selection process of each institution.

• Must submit the requested documents to formally apply for the Associate Fellow Program up to 3 months after the start of the training*.

• Complete the Continuing Education Program (CEP) Level I and level II during the fellow program - every Fellow is automatically enrolled in an exclusive virtual environment within the continued Education Program as soon as he/she is approved for the fellowship.

• Complete the Logbook - monthly report regarding their activities in the spine center and upload it, during the whole program, in a timely manner in the system.

• Send the Fellow feedback report - all fellows must fill in and depose a confidential form evaluating the spine center and its training by the end of the program.

• Develop a Research project - fellows must take part in at least one clinical research project developed by the spine center in accordance with the orientation of the center director.

*Strongly recommended to get in touch with office right after registering.

All the activities listed above are mandatory for receiving the certificate.

General Information:

• The Fellow is responsible for their own health and travel insurance valid in the country of destination for the entire duration of the fellowship with full assistance and medical coverage and must follow the requirements of the institution chosen.

• Visas and licenses: while attending programs outside their home country all Fellows will be subjected to the local laws and restrictions applied to medical practice by foreigners. Fellows must have in mind that without specific medical licenses, there is no guarantee that they will be allowed to practice surgical procedures during their training and may be restricted to observational activities.

• In order to be certified, all fellows must attend and conclude the online modules of the Continuing Education Program (CEP), according to the selected program, and must submit his/her monthly reports (Logbooks). In the unlikely event of non-compliance with the fellowship duties and/or fellowship cancellation, the fellow in question will be automatically excluded from the virtual learning environment and will lose all program benefits.

• Participants will be solely responsible for their own travel and accommodation cost and expenses.
AOSpine centers are selected in order to offer our fellows a wide range of learning possibilities within the region. We are able to ensure that all of our centers have the proper conditions and infrastructure to provide both practical and academic training.

Every spine center is previously and periodically evaluated regarding three main aspects:

1. Hospital Infrastructure
2. Surgical procedures
3. Training program

Our goal is to embrace the best spine centers in the Region, as well as providing our prospect fellows – locally and regionally – the best alternatives to fit their educational goals. Here you can find our currently active spine centers in Latin America and all international spine centers, please refer to our website at aospine.org>education>fellowship>Spine Centers.

Support and contact

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