

Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme: Experts in HIV service delivery

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What is the Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme?

The Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme, an initiative of the IAS Educational Fund, is a mentored two-year training fellowship for clinicians committed to careers in HIV clinical service delivery in Africa¹. The aim is to strengthen access to high-quality services with a client-centred service delivery approach. The fellows will spend one year in Europe and one year in Africa at clinical institutions.

What are the eligibility criteria?

To be eligible, applicants should:

- Hold a degree as a medical doctor
- Have at least two years' clinical experience
- Be a citizen and currently working in Central, Eastern, Southern or Western Africa
- Be committed to becoming a specialist in HIV
- Speak English, French or Portuguese

What are the outcomes of the programme?

Fellows of the comprehensive programme will be trained as specialists in HIV and AIDS. The programme will provide:

- Exposure to different management and care systems
- Management of HIV and non-communicable diseases in different settings
- Understanding of trials, cohorts and case studies and published audit reports
- Guidance on how to apply for a research grant
- Guidance on writing up research, audit and case reports and how to get published
- Presentation of original research
- Knowledge of the pandemic, economic impact and major drivers of HIV funding
- Contact and collaboration with NGO and healthcare client advocacy groups
- Understanding of novel vaccine and cure research
- Understanding of differences between key population groups and their needs

Those who complete the fellowship programme will receive a diploma.

I have a diploma in clinical medicine. Am I eligible?

No. A diploma in clinical medicine does not constitute eligibility because it is possible that holders of such diplomas are not allowed to practice as clinicians in the host institution countries.

¹Central, Eastern, Southern or Western Africa

Are nurses, psychologists, pharmacists and lab technicians eligible to apply?

No. To be eligible, applicants must hold a degree in medicine (for example, MD, MBBS, MBChB) or equivalent.

I am not currently working in Africa, but I am interested in working in the region in the future. Am I eligible?

No. To be eligible, applicants must currently be working in Central, Eastern, Southern or Western Africa and their current institution must support their application and agree that they can return upon completion of the programme.

I work in Africa, but I am not a citizen of an African country. Am I eligible to apply?

No. Citizenship of an Central, Eastern, Southern or Western African is required.

What does the fellowship include?

Programme costs: The fellowship award includes travel to each host institution, tuition fees for each programme year, accommodation costs and living expenses. Please note that this is a stipend, not a salaried position, and funds may not be used to support any dependents.

Conference attendance: The fellows will participate in an initiation workshop and capacity development programme at IAS 2023, the 12th IAS Conference on HIV Science, to be held in Brisbane, Australia, on 23-26 July 2023. Fellows will also attend AIDS 2024, the 25th International AIDS Conference. The fellowship programme will provide travel, accommodation, registration and per diem expenses for both these events.

What are the main fellowship terms and conditions?

Duration: Fellowships must be served continuously for the duration of the award. The fellowships must be started in Q3 2023, in line with the semester dates of the host institutions.

Reporting: Fellows and mentors must provide progress reports every six months during the fellowship period and a final fellowship report to the IAS based on a template that they will receive.

Terms: All fellows must sit a diploma exam in HIV upon completion of the final semester at the host institutions. Fellows must attend IAS 2023 in Brisbane and the initiation workshop, as well as other capacity-building activities. Fellows must also attend AIDS 2024. The fellow must have agreement from their current institution that they will return upon completion of the programme.