



AIMS RESEARCH
Australian Institute of Musculo-Skeletal Research



AIMS Research Fellowship Guide

AIMS Post-Graduate Sub-specialty Fellowship Programme

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Introduction

The Australian Institute of Musculo-Skeletal Research (AIMS) Fellowship Programme is designed for surgeons seeking advanced sub-specialty training through structured clinical exposure, research participation, and mentorship by senior surgeons.

This guide outlines what prospective fellows can expect when applying for and undertaking a fellowship administered by AIMS.

Who Should Apply

The AIMS Post-Graduate Sub-specialty Fellowship Programme is suited to:

- Qualified surgeons who have completed their primary specialist training
- Surgeons seeking **advanced clinical exposure**, research involvement, or observerships in a focused sub-specialty area
- International applicants looking to gain experience within the Australian healthcare and research environment

Fellowships are competitive and tailored to the experience, goals, and availability of both the fellow and host institution.

Fellowship Structure & Duration

How long is a fellowship?

Fellowships range from **6 months to 2 years**, depending on the specific programme and host institution. The confirmed duration will be outlined once a fellowship placement is agreed.

Remuneration & Financial Considerations

Is the fellowship paid?

Remuneration varies by fellowship:

- Some positions include an **educational stipend**
- Others are for **unpaid clinical observation or research-focused appointments.**

Who covers travel and living expenses?

Unless otherwise specified:

- Fellows are responsible for **international and domestic travel costs**
- Accommodation, visas, insurance, and general living expenses are the responsibility of the fellow.

Relocation & Living in Australia

Can I bring my spouse or family?

Yes. Fellows may bring their spouse and/or dependants. Visa requirements for family members will depend on individual circumstances, and guidance will be provided during the application process.

What about accommodation?

AIMS does not provide or fund accommodation. However, we can assist by:

- Offering general advice on suitable locations
- Referring fellows to local real estate agents or rental platforms.

Rental properties in Australia are commonly advertised **approximately 4 weeks prior to availability**, so accommodation is usually arranged closer to the fellowship start date.

Application, Registration & Visa Process

How long does the process take?

The application and onboarding process can take **up to 12 months**, particularly for clinical fellowships requiring professional registration, credentialing, and visa approvals.

- Ideally, the first stage begins **around one year prior** to the intended start date.
- AIMS recognises that some fellowships are confirmed with shorter notice and will work closely with fellows to meet required timelines where possible.

AIMS provides structured guidance through each stage of the process.

Next Steps

What should I do now?

1. **Select up to three fellowship preferences** via the website.
2. **Complete your online registration and application.**
3. **Diarise the deadlines for each stage.** Delayed submission for visas, approvals and language tests is the leading cause of fellowship delay or cancellation.

Once submitted, the AIMS team will contact you to guide you through the next steps.

Applicants should **not contact hospitals, institutions, or external agencies directly, as this can create confusion and delays.** All coordination is managed by AIMS on your behalf.

Why AIMS Research

Founded in 1985, AIMS is committed to advancing surgical care through **clinical research, education and bespoke specialist training**.

Fellows benefit from:

- Mentorship by senior surgeons
- Exposure to a strong **research and clinical environment**
- An **international alumni network** with graduates in senior positions worldwide.

Further Information

This Fellowship Guide is intended to provide general information. Specific requirements, responsibilities, and opportunities may vary depending on the fellowship and host institution. Further details will be provided during the application process.

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