

Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme: Experts in HIV service delivery (Asia and the Pacific)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What is the Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme?

The Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme, is a mentored two-year training fellowship for clinicians committed to careers in HIV clinical service delivery in Asia and the Pacific. The aim is to strengthen access to high-quality services for the region, with a client-centered service delivery approach. The fellows will spend one year at a clinical institutions in the Asia and the Pacific region and one year conducting a mentored research project.

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 the differences between key population groups and their needs.

Those who complete the fellowship programme will receive a diploma.

I have less than two years of clinical experience. Can I be considered for the programme?

No. To be eligible, applicants must have a minimum of two years' clinical experience.

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.

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 Asia and the Pacific, 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 Asian and the Pacific and their current institution must support their application and agree that they can return upon completion of the programme.

I work in Asia and the Pacific but I am not a citizen of a country in the region, am I eligible to apply?

No. Citizenship of a low and middle-income country in Asia and the Pacific country is required. Eligible countries include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Federal States of Micronesia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam.

What does the fellowship include?

Programme costs: The fellowship award includes travel and visa costs to each host institution,, accommodation costs, living expenses and health insurance. Additionally, tuition fees for fellowship courses and activities are paid directly to the host institutions. Please note that this is a stipend, not a salaried position, and funds may not be used to support any dependents. Selected fellows must ensure they are financially capable of supporting any dependents prior to accepting the fellowship award.

Conference attendance: The fellows will participate in an initiation workshop and capacity development programme at AIDS 2026, 26th International AIDS Conference to be held from 26 to 31 July in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Fellows will also attend the IAS 2027, the 14th IAS Conference on HIV Science in Geneva, Switzerland. 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 2026, 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 AIDS 2026 in Brazil and the initiation workshop, as well as other capacity-building activities. Fellows must also attend IAS 2027. The fellow must have agreement from their current institution that they will return upon completion of the programme.