

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 is a mentored two-year training fellowship for clinicians committed to careers in HIV clinical service delivery in Africa. 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 of an African country and currently working in 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

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

No. A diploma in clinical medicine does not constitute eligibility because holders of such diplomas may not be 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 Africa, but I am interested in working in the region in the future. Am I eligible?

No. To be eligible, applicants must be currently working in an African country, 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 African country is required.

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 virtually in Q2 2026. Fellows will also have the opportunity to attend AIDS 2026, the 26th International AIDS Conference, taking place on 26-31 July in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Fellows will also have the opportunity to attend 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 fellowship contracts will start 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: . Fellows must attend AIDS 2026 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.