

Mark Wainberg Fellowship Programme: Experts in HIV service delivery (Latin America and the Caribbean)

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 Latin America and the Caribbean. 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 institution in the Latin America and Caribbean region and one year conducting a 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.

What are the eligibility criteria?

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Have a degree in medicine (for example MD, MBBS, MBChB) and be 40 years old or younger or have less than 15 years of experience in the HIV field.
- Be fluent in at least one of the following languages: English, Portuguese, or Spanish.
- Be a citizen of a low- and middle-income country in Latin America and the Caribbean region
- Be committed to practicing in the Latin America and the Caribbean region for at least two years following completion of the fellowship

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 or equivalent.

I am not currently working in Latin America and the Caribbean, but I am interested in working there in the future. Am I eligible?

No. To be eligible, applicants must currently be working in Latin America and the Caribbean and their current institution must support their application and agree that they can return upon completion of the programme.

I work in Latin America and the Caribbean, but I am not a citizen of a country in the region, am I eligible to apply?

No. Citizenship of an eligible country in the region is required. Eligible countries include: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Venezuela.

What does the fellowship include?

Programme costs: Fellows will receive a stipend to cover housing and living expenses adjusted to the cost of living of the host institution country. In addition, fellows receive travel and visa support. 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 able to enroll in the programme before accepting the fellowship.

Tuition fees and research project: Host institutions will receive funds to cover tuition fees and other placement costs. Furthermore, fellows will receive funds to conduct a research project during the second year of the programme following the submission and approval of a proposal. Tuition fees and research project funds will be disbursed to the host or home institution.

Conference attendance: The fellows will participate in an initiation workshop and capacity development programme at AIDS 2026, the 26th International AIDS Conference, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 26-31 July 2026. Fellows will also attend the IAS 2027 and AIDS 2028 conferences. The fellowship programme will provide travel, accommodation, registration and per diem expenses for conference attendance.

What are the main fellowship terms and conditions?

Duration: Fellowships must be served continuously for the duration of the award. The fellowships will begin in Q3 2026, or in any case, 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 where required. Fellows must attend AIDS 2026, IAS 2027 and AIDS 2028 conferences. Importantly, fellows must have agreement from their current institution that they will return upon completion of the programme.