British Orthopaedic Association

35- 43 Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London, WC2A 3PE

Registered Charity No. 1066994
Company Registration No.3482958

Instructions and advice for applicants to BOA 2021 Travelling Fellowships

All applicants should read the terms and conditions and application form carefully as well as this document (see https://www.boa.ac.uk/learning-and-events/fellowships-awards/travelling-fellowships/how-to-apply.html)

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General background

The BOA endeavours to provide exceptional educational training opportunities for its members throughout each stage of their careers.

Every year, the BOA offers a number of Travelling Fellowships to its members. These fellowships offer a unique opportunity to visit UK or overseas centres of excellence to gain knowledge and experience within trauma and orthopaedic surgery.

Fellowships are awarded on merit to current BOA members (see below section 'Who can apply' for further information).

We are grateful to the fellowship sponsors this year, as follows:

- Heraeus (1 fellowship on infection in memory of Andrew Sprowson)
- Postgraduate Orthopaedics (1 fellowship)

We also recognise the endowments set up through donations or bequests from past members Mr Soli Lam and Mr Ram Kumar Chatterjee.
We have allocated funds from these endowments (Soli Lam General Fund, Soli Lam Spinal Fund and Chatterjee Fund) to support fellowships in 2021 – the number and award amount will depend on the applications received, but you are welcome to apply for grants at £1,500, £2,500, £5,000 and amounts up to £15,000.

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Who can apply?

Applicants must be current BOA Home Associates, Post-CCT members, or SAS Surgeons in good standing. Candidates can only be considered if they are BOA members and are currently up-to-date with their membership subscription fees and have updated their membership category to reflect their current grade/post. Post-CCT members are eligible as long as they have not taken up a Substantive Consultant post or been appointed to one by the closing date of 25th October.

Please ensure you have read the terms and conditions about eligibility, funding and claiming funds.

How do I apply and what are the timelines?

Please email a completed application form, your CV, Equality and Diversity Monitoring form, and a letter of recommendation from your TPD* to policy@boa.ac.uk by noon on **25th October 2021.**

*If you are a Post-CCT or SAS Member, applicants are not required to supply a letter of recommendation.

Your application will be reviewed by a panel of BOA advisors to produce a shortlist of applicants who will be invited to interview.

Online interviews will take place on **Wednesday 1st December 2021** and final funding decisions will then be made.

Successful applicants will be notified by **20th December 2021** and the fellowship should commence within 10 months of being awarded.

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What amounts are available?

Fellowship 'in full'

- Our largest fellowship funds are for up to **£15,000** each.
- We will fund three fellowships in full: the top scoring spinal application (Soli Lam Spinal Fellowship), and the top two applications across all other specialties. (Occasionally we fund more than three fellowships 'in full', depending on the quality and quality of applications, and the amounts requested.)
- Applicants can specify the total expected cost of their fellowship, up to the maximum of £15,000. These fellowships can be awarded at below the maximum of £15,000. Unspent funds roll forward to future years.

Contribution fellowship

- We have further fellowship awards for the values of £1,500, £2,500 and £5,000.
- These fellowships either contribute towards total fellowship costs, or they may fund the costs in full.
- You can choose which value(s) of grant you would like to be considered for. (For example for a fellowship that you have costed at £6,000, you can apply for a £6,000 grant (in full) and for the £2,500 and £5,000 contribution, but choosing not to apply at £1500, i.e. because you would have a way to fund the remainder if £2,500 or £5,000 were awarded, but not if £1,500 was awarded.)
- The Heraeus/Andrew Sprowson fellowship will be awarded in the field of infection.
- All other fellowships will fund applications across all specialties.
- These funds will be awarded to the top scoring applications based on merit (with higher scoring applications eligible for the larger grants.)

The application form will ask applicants to indicate which level(s) of funding they wish to be considered for. Candidates will be responsible for finding or funding additional costs, where the BOA provides only contribution funding.

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What does the fellowship funding cover?

The fellowship award will cover travel, accommodation and certain other costs of taking part in a fellowship. Please refer to the Travelling Fellowship Terms and Conditions for more information on what costs are eligible. These also provide an explanation about how you claim the funds awarded, and how and when reimbursement takes place.

Please note, where the travel is within the UK, we appreciate that there will be many ways to organise this – some people may be able to live at home and commute to the host site, others may be able to stay with family or friends, while others may need accommodation. The scheme is flexible and allows you to apply for the relevant costs that you would incur to do the fellowship.

How should I prepare my fellowship proposal?

In your application, we expect to see that you have identified a host unit, a host supervisor and a likely duration for your fellowship. In your application you will need to explain how this particular fellowship will benefit you and what you hope to achieve from it, and detail the potential wider benefits to patients, the profession and the BOA.

Please note that it is preferable for the intended Fellowship to have track record, rather than to be unused to hosting fellows.

The application form asks for expected costs of undertaking your fellowship, so you will need to have researched travel and accommodation costs.

In relation to COVID-19 and continued uncertainty surrounding travel, the following specific arrangements will apply to the 2021 BOA Travelling Fellowships:

- Your proposed fellowships may take place in the UK, Europe and other worldwide destinations.
    - If you do wish to travel beyond the UK, please be advised to check thoroughly that your proposed country of travel is (or is projected to be) open to travellers at the time of your proposed fellowship.
    - Other logistics and precautions related to COVID-19 restrictions must also be thoroughly thought through. These include: vaccination or testing rules, length of stay allowed, quarantine procedures etc. in your proposed country of travel.
    - The details given in your application regarding COVID-19 implications in your proposed country of travel will be considered during the shortlisting process.
- Your proposed fellowship may take place across multiple visit sites in your proposed country of travel, or more than one country, if travel permits, but you should think carefully about any Covid-19 logistical challenges if considering this.
- Your proposed fellowship may be for any duration.
- We normally ask that travel is booked as far in advance as possible, but in these circumstances we will be understanding towards later bookings where there is uncertainty about travel. We still ask fellows to travel as economically as they can and certainly within the funding amount offered for the fellowship if successful.
- Successful applicants should commence their fellowship **within 10 months** of being awarded (with awards due to take place in December 2021).
- We encourage you and your hosts to be innovative in planning for undertaking a fellowship; the significant waiting lists for surgery in the UK may affect the ability of some centres to

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offer fellowships if they need to focus on delivery of patient care. Please use your application form to tell us what you would seek to learn and how, especially if there is less operating time than might otherwise be the case.

Applicants should consider the following before applying:

- In the event that the fellowship cannot go ahead at the planned time, your TPD should be able to accommodate you in your usual placement.
- The host of the Fellowship needs, as best as possible, to be able to guarantee that the normal learning outcomes will be met.
- It is preferable for the intended Fellowship to have a track record, rather than to being unused to hosting fellows.
- The host country should have an established contingency plan to cope with any increase in cases, emergency lockdowns or restrictions due to COVID 19.

Further information

Please direct any queries to our Policy and Programmes team at policy@boa.ac.uk.