

## ECTRIMS CLINICAL TRAINING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION & APPLICATION GUIDE

Updated July 2025

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

ECTRIMS offers a Clinical Training Fellowship for neurologists and other physicians to provide the opportunity for successful candidates to learn the latest techniques in patient management and care and to help foster their careers as MS physicians. The training period must be under the direction of a senior clinical mentor at a European MS clinic and/or research center and can run for 3 months, 6 months or 1 year in duration.

### KEY INFORMATION

- For physicians to obtain mentored clinical training in a European MS centre to enhance their MS clinical care expertise.
- 1-year funded fellowships in a European laboratory or clinic.
- Citizens of any country are eligible to apply to this programme. However, clinical training must be undertaken in a European clinic.
- All other evaluations equal, some preference will be given to applicants from less-developed countries where MS is a prevalent disease, to provide the opportunity for clinical training in a European setting where MS is a focus.
- The application requires documents from the candidate, the proposed mentor, and the proposed host training institute, as well as other professional referees.
- Successful fellows and their mentors will be asked to provide progress and financial accounting reports at the end of the fellowship year.
- At the time of application, applicants should not have worked in any capacity at the same institution and/or under the same mentor as proposed in the fellowship application.
- The same mentor may not be proposed in more than 1 application per cycle, all fellowship categories combined.
- Institutes will be limited to 3 awards total among all fellowship categories and only 1 award per category.
- Application period: 1 August through 1 December 2025

## PROGRAMME TERMS

### Applicant eligibility:

- Applicants must hold an MD or equivalent medical degree prior to application for the training programme. Having completed a relevant internship and residency is desirable, but candidates who have not yet completed internships or residencies are eligible to apply.
- Medically trained candidates with a specialty interest in neurology or any other field of medicine that is related and important to MS care and management are eligible (e.g. electrophysiology, psychiatry/rehabilitation medicine, psychiatry, etc.).
- At the time of application, applicants should not have worked in any capacity at the same institution and/or under the same mentor as proposed in the fellowship application.
- In general, successful applicants will be under 40 years of age at the time of application; however, applicants who are older may still apply, and any special circumstances should be indicated during the application process.
- Citizens of any country are eligible to apply to this programme. However, research training must be undertaken in a European laboratory or clinic.
- Applicants are restricted to 1 application per annual cycle, across all categories.
- Candidates and their mentors must affirm that there will be no language barriers that will impede the training experience.
- **NOTE:** special consideration will be given to applicants from less-developed countries where MS is a prevalent disease, to provide the opportunity for clinical training in a European setting where MS is a focus.

### Clinical Training Location and Mentor

- The fellowship period will be spent in a European clinic focused on problems associated with MS and/or related diseases.
- For fellowship applicants who are European citizens, the clinic should be located in a different European country from that of the applicant's citizenship.
- For all applicants, the fellowship must take place at a different institute and in a different country than the fellow's current placement. These conditions are in place to ensure the programme's goal of cross-border exchange. Exceptions may be considered under special circumstances, which must be detailed in the application process.

- The applicant must determine in advance the fellowship location and identify a proposed mentor, all of which will be considered along with the applicant's own qualifications and training plan, in the review and selection process.
- The same mentor may not be proposed in more than 1 application per cycle, all categories combined.
  - If more than one applicant indicates the same mentor, the mentor will be contacted prior to the application review to select 1 application to go forward to the evaluation stage.

**ECTRIMS strongly recommends that mentors limit their engagement to 1 applicant only per application cycle, in order to avoid pulling out of otherwise completed applications and leaving applicants with no mentor support.**
- The mentor and their institution must provide a certification that the proposed training fellow will be allowed to undertake patient care in the institution, given that in most situations it is expected that the candidate's medical education will have taken place in a different country from the training site.
- Institutes will be limited to 3 awards total among all fellowship categories and only 1 award per category.

### Term

- Clinical Training Fellowships of 3 months, 6 months, or 1-year duration will be available.
- In most circumstances, the Clinical Training Programme must be initiated (all paperwork submitted to the programme administrator; move to training site complete; work actively beginning) within 6 months of the receipt of an award letter from ECTRIMS. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the ECTRIMS Fellowship Committee.

### Support

- ECTRIMS will provide a stipend of 55,000.00 EUR for a one-year training programme, or a pro-rated amount for other durations of less than a year.
- ECTRIMS will also provide economy transportation from the successful candidate's home location to and from the location of the host institute. Travel expenses for family will not be provided. Transportation expenses will be reimbursed directly to the fellow, upon submission of receipts to ECTRIMS.

- ECTRIMS funding will be paid directly to the host institution, which will be considered the employer of the fellow. Stipends will be paid by the host institution to the fellow according to the institution's own payment policies and schedules.
- The ECTRIMS award must be used by the institution to pay the fellow's stipend ("salary") at the institutionally appropriate rate for the fellow's stage of training. Should there be any remaining funds, the remainder of the award can be used to support institutional social benefits (health care coverage, pension, other benefits) that may be required by the institution.
  - The expected fellow's total salary, as well as the expected fellow's total social benefits costs per year, must be indicated by the host institution.
  - If the total stipend plus benefits exceeds the amount provided by the ECTRIMS award, it is the responsibility of the institution/ mentor to supplement the ECTRIMS award to cover the entire required costs.
  - If the annual or prorated ECTRIMS award is not sufficient for the total required costs of the fellow (salary plus benefits), additional sources of funding that will be used to cover the total costs must be listed.
- It is expected that the clinical activities to be undertaken at the host institution will be supported by the host institution/mentor. No additional support for equipment, work materials, consumables, books, journal subscriptions, etc. should be paid for by the fellowship funds.
- Fellows will be expected to attend annual ECTRIMS congresses during the term of their fellowship and to make a presentation (at a young researcher's section or elsewhere) on their funded research. ECTRIMS will separately support travel and accommodations for congress participation.

### **Activities During the Fellowship Period**

- The ECTRIMS Clinical Training Fellowship is intended to be a full-time MS clinical care training experience. This can include "hands-on" clinical care under the guidance of the mentor and care-related course work in the training institutions, and may also include time involved in clinical research under the guidance of, and as deemed appropriate by, the mentor.
- The anticipated training programme, including any course work or assistance in a host institution's clinical research, must be described in detail by the applicant and mentor in their proposals to ECTRIMS.

- While not required, a research project may be part of the training experience and if included, should be documented and justified within the context of a comprehensive fellowship experience.

### **Changes in the Fellowship Programme Agreement**

- It is anticipated that the entire training period will be undertaken within the host institution and mentor as planned. However, in special circumstances, ECTRIMS will consider requests to transfer the fellowship to a new mentor or institution. Authorisation must be requested and provided prior to any such change. Unexpended funds at the original host institution must be returned to ECTRIMS in the event of an approved institutional transfer, and the balance will be reissued to a new host institution by ECTRIMS.
- The ECTRIMS Clinical Training Fellowship is an individual award and is not transferable to a different fellow at the host institution.
- ECTRIMS must be notified of early termination of any fellow and unexpended funds at the host institution must be returned to ECTRIMS.
- ECTRIMS may revoke or terminate a fellowship early if the fellow is unable to carry out the training as planned, if a mentor requests termination because of unsatisfactory performance by the fellow, or in the event of cause established by due process of law or as a consequence of an institutional review committee's determination of fraud or malfeasance.

### **Reporting**

- Fellows and their mentors are required to provide a report of the training experience and a financial report of expenditures at its conclusion, due within 30 days after the completion of the training programme. Forms for completing the reporting will be provided by ECTRIMS.
  - Reports must include a summary of the training, along with accounting information from the mentor or host institution (form provided by ECTRIMS) of how funds provided for the fellow were allocated and whether additional funds were provided to the fellow by the host institution or other granting agency (source, amount, purpose).
- Publications that emerge from the work undertaken during the fellowship period should acknowledge the ECTRIMS Clinical Training Fellowship Programme for its support.

### **Post-Fellowship Follow-Up**

- After the training fellowship period, it is desirable for the fellow to return to their original home institution for employment, to the extent possible. Post-fellowship career plans should be detailed as part of the application process.
- ECTRIMS fellows are requested to maintain contact with the ECTRIMS Secretariat, so that post-training career paths and publications can be followed with the goal of informing overall programme evaluation.

### **Application Process**

ECTRIMS Clinical Training Fellowships will be awarded in a competitive review process conducted by members of the ECTRIMS Fellowship Committee. Applications will be evaluated based on the:

- candidate's qualifications, educational history and evaluation of career plans;
- qualifications and characteristics of the proposed training mentor and host institution;
- nature of the proposed clinical training plan, including any course work or clinical research that is anticipated;
- and the quality of letters of endorsement from the proposed mentor and from referees at the fellow's home institution, etc.

### **Part 1: Documents provided by the applicant through the online application system**

**All documents should be submitted as a PDF.**

1. A completed online application, available through the ECTRIMS website
2. An abbreviated curriculum vitae (CV) and bibliography of the applicant via the form "Biographical Sketch" provided by ECTRIMS, available for download in the online fellowship application system
3. Applicant's career plans (not to exceed 1 page)
4. A clinical training programme description (not to exceed 6 pages)
5. A research project description, if applicable
6. Proof of knowledge of the training venue's local language (e.g. language certificate, personal letter of confirmation).

## **Part 2: Supporting Materials Provided Directly to ECTRIMS by Others**

**All documents should be submitted as a PDF.**

The following additional items must be submitted electronically to the ECTRIMS Secretariat ([secretariat@ectrims.eu](mailto:secretariat@ectrims.eu)) by 1 December 2025. These should be submitted separately by their respective authors as confidential documents and should not be submitted with the materials requested in Part 1. Please be sure to ask referees to clearly identify the name of the applicant on all pages of their letters.

### **1. From the proposed mentor:**

- Letter of endorsement of the applicant, with special reference to any interactions they have had with the applicant and to the proposed research plan.
- Current abbreviated curriculum vitae and bibliography (no more than 5 pages) for the proposed mentor. The “Biographical Sketch” form provided in the online fellowship application system should be used. The applicant is responsible for forwarding this form to the proposed mentor for their use.

### **2. From the host institution:**

- Letter of support from the department chair (or other relevant institutional official) at the proposed host institution accepting the applicant as a fellow, should a fellowship be awarded.
- Institutional certification accepting the terms of the ECTRIMS fellowship regarding the funding payments and the funding amount. The necessary form, “Acceptance of ECTRIMS Payment Rules”, is available for download from the online application system. The applicant is responsible for forwarding this form to the proposed host institute for completion and submission to ECTRIMS.

### **3. From other referees:**

- A total of 3 letters of reference from professionals acquainted with the applicant, from their home institution or elsewhere, that addresses the applicant’s qualities and likelihood for success in their chosen MS field and career track.
  - One of these letters should be submitted from the proposed mentor for the applicant.

- If relevant, applicants should include a letter from the home institution indicating that the fellow will be welcomed back to the institution once the fellowship period has concluded and describing the nature of the position available.

**Note:** Applicants should not arrange for more than the 3 requested letters of recommendation. There is no benefit to applicants who provide supplementary letters of recommendation.

### **Final Reminder and Recap**

The applicant's CV/bibliography and research project summary and description are to be submitted by the applicant using the online application system by 1 December 2025.

Mentor CV and support letter, as well as institutional and referee support letters and forms, are to be submitted **separately** by the mentor and/or institution as confidential documents to the ECTRIMS Secretariat ([secretariat@ectrims.eu](mailto:secretariat@ectrims.eu)) by 1 December 2025.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

### **Notification of ECTRIMS Award Deliberations**

The ECTRIMS Fellowship Committee will review all proposals after the application period. Notification of the review outcomes will be made by the end of March 2026, to facilitate logistics involved in relocation by the following autumn.

For questions and further information, please contact the ECTRIMS Secretariat at: [secretariat@ectrims.eu](mailto:secretariat@ectrims.eu).