

# General rules and guidelines for an EAFPS Fellowship Training Programme

## Introduction

The European Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery (EAFPS) is committed to promoting, maintaining and advancing the highest standards in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery through its recognized Fellowship Training Programme and rigorous Certification process.

This structured framework ensures compliance with agreed training standards across all member societies, promoting uniformity and excellence at the highest level. In doing so, it provides reassurance to patients and the wider public regarding the quality and consistency of specialist training.

## Mandatory application requirements - European Candidates

1. The applicant must be a current paying member of the EAFPS
2. The applicant must hold a medical degree (MD) and have successfully completed a recognized residency programme in Otolaryngology, General Plastic Surgery, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Europe, Turkey, or the United Kingdom.
3. The applicant must currently reside in Europe, Turkey, or the United Kingdom.
4. The applicant must be supported by two current EAFPS members, at least one of whom must hold Board Certification in FPRS (EBEC-FPRS, IBCFPRS or EBCFPRS).

## Mandatory application requirements - International Candidates

1. The applicant must be a current paying member of the EAFPS
2. The applicant must hold a medical degree (MD) and have successfully completed a recognized residency programme in Otolaryngology, General Plastic Surgery, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.
3. The applicant must be supported by two current EAFPS members, at least one of whom must hold Board Certification in FPRS (EBEC-FPRS, IBCFPRS or EBCFPRS).

## **General rules of the EAFPS Fellowship Programme**

1. The duration of the Fellowship must be a minimum of one year; shorter periods will not be accepted. All training centres must be accredited by the EAFPS and/or International Federation of Facial Plastic Surgery Societies (IFFPSS).
2. The EAFPS recommends that the Fellowship be completed within one year. Where this is not feasible, the duration may be extended to a maximum of two years.
3. The Fellowship may be undertaken across more than one centre, with a mandatory 6-month period in the main fellowship centre (see models below). The EAFPS strongly recommends that fellows discuss the sequence, clinical content, and individual educational objectives of their training with their mentor(s) in advance.
4. Following completion of the Fellowship programme, European Fellows must sit the annual two-day [EBEC-FPRS Examination](#). Presently, For ENT-surgeons, successful completion of the Fellowship, passing the EBEC-FPRS exam, and a satisfactory review of a personal case log demonstrating two years of independent Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery practice, may lead to formal EBEC-FPRS Board Certification.

## **How to apply for an officially certified EAFPS fellowship**

1. Download the EAFPS fellowship application form on the EAFPS website.
2. Check if you meet the EAFPS's mandatory requirements. If not, contact [fellowship@eafps.org](mailto:fellowship@eafps.org) for further clarification.
3. Complete the application form electronically. Handwritten applications will not be accepted.
4. The following supporting documents must be submitted with the application.
  - a. A signed letter of support from two current EAFPS members
  - b. Proof of current EAFPS paying membership
  - c. Curriculum Vitae
  - d. Motivation letter outlining your intentions to become a Facial Plastic Surgeon
  - e. Documentary evidence of your medical degree and successful completion of a recognized residency program in Otolaryngology or General Plastic Surgery, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (MD only!).
5. Email your application with supporting documents to: [fellowship@eafps.org](mailto:fellowship@eafps.org)

**Important dates and procedures:**

1. The annual closing date for applications is January 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. All candidates, will be interviewed by the Fellowship Committee, usually in March.
3. Interviewing will result in a merit-based ranking of candidates.
4. Based on this ranking, candidates will be given priority in selecting their fellowship centre.
5. Final approval of acceptance is determined by the applicable Fellowship Director.
6. All fellowships must commence in the year of application and completed within a maximum of two years.
7. The EBEC-FPRS board exam is annually held just before the EAFPS meeting.
8. All fellows needs to return completed and signed 6 and 12 month in-training forms to [fellowship@eafps.org](mailto:fellowship@eafps.org)

**Fellowship models to choose from over a 12-month period:**



*A maximum time of three months of the one-year Fellowship Programme may be undertaken outside Europe but requires Fellowship Committee approval in advance. Visiting more than one centre is advised to facilitate wider exposure and perspectives.*

## **Funding for Fellows**

The EAFPS Executive Board is committed to a fair and transparent decision-making process regarding the funding of Fellows, with the aim of attracting the best talent.

Eligibility for funding is based on essential credentials and demonstrable dedication to Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. This includes, but is not limited to, peer-reviewed publications, participation in research projects, attendance to relevant courses with hands on training, surgical exposure, and performed clinical observerships or working visits.

The number of Funded Fellows is determined annually by the EAFPS Executive Board. Retrospective funding is not allowed. Funding is only available to European candidates who start/have started their Fellowship program in the same year that the funding is awarded.

## **Terms and Conditions for International Fellowship Programme**

In 2023, following extensive discussion, the EAFPS Executive Board (EB) has decided to offer Fellowship Training to international candidates, provided that the following criteria are met:

1. The first preference of choice of Fellowship Training Centres is offered to EU applicants from core countries of the EAFPS.
2. Any Fellowship Training Centre that is not occupied in accordance with the above described process may be offered to International Fellows (IF).
3. The IF should hold Medical registration status or authorisation through other means to perform hands-on clinical work in the country where they will be undertaking the Fellowship before commencing the Fellowship Training Programme. This allows for active assistance in procedures. If this criterion is not met, the fellowship director must make arrangements for the IF to assist in procedures in accordance with their local rules. If the IF cannot join actively in surgeries by assisting, the post is classed as an “Observership” and not a Fellowship.
4. All IFs must apply through the EAFPS Fellowship Committee and are obligated to outline their progress by providing the Fellowship Committee with a signed 6- and 12-month in training log.
5. IFs are not funded by the EAFPS.