



Post Residency Clinical Fellowship **Frequently Asked Questions**

As a premier funder of neurosurgical studies, the Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) focuses on providing fellowship funding in basic neuroscience and neurosurgical programs in North America.

Please read the document in its entirety prior to completing the application. After reviewing the application and the answers below, if you still have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the NREF via email grants@nref.org.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Why are companies working with the NREF on fellow grant funding?

- Agreements like this with the NREF are intended to help companies continue their support of high-quality education and training in spine surgery, general neurosurgery, and a number of neurosurgical subspecialty areas in an independent and transparent manner.

By contracting with the NREF to administer the fellowship grant program, companies are also able to reduce staff time and related internal costs that are associated with the fellowship grant process. Under the terms of the Agreements, the NREF is responsible for all aspects of the fellowship grant program, including but not limited to the review and approval of grant applications.

2. Is United States Citizenship a requirement to apply?

- No, fellows do not have to be US citizens. However, a fellow must have satisfactorily completed an ACGME-accredited residency training program in neurological surgery (or the Canadian equivalent).

3. How many grants are funded each year?

- The number of grants the NREF Post-Residency Clinical Fellowship will fund depends upon the contributions from corporate supporters as well as the number

of eligible applications received. The NREF is hopeful that the number of funded fellowships will meet or exceed the past funding levels.

4. When would this fellowship grant start?

- Applications are currently being accepted for fellowships that start on July 1, 2017 and conclude on June 30, 2018.

5. How can applications be submitted?

- The application will be available online beginning August 1, 2016. It can be found at www.nref.org/en/GrantApplications.aspx/ using your AANS login.

6. What items are required to ensure an application is complete?

- All required fields are filled and application is signed
- Letter of Accreditation from ACGME
- If the fellowship is accredited by the Society of Neurological Surgeons Committee on Accreditation of Subspecialty Training (CAST), a certificate letter indicating CAST accreditation for neurologic surgery fellowship.
 - If your fellowship is not CAST-accredited, an application for accreditation can be downloaded by clicking the following link:
<http://www.societyns.org/fellowships/snsaccreditationapplicationform.pdf>
- IRS Non-Profit Status Determination letter, including Federal ID number.

7. When is the application deadline?

- The completed application inclusive of program director comments and letters of recommendation must be submitted by **midnight (Central Standard Time) Saturday, October 1, 2016.**

8. Will applicants be notified that their application has been received?

- Yes, once an administrative review of applications has taken place, each applicant will be notified of the status of their application. If you do not receive an email by **Monday, October 17, 2016**, please email the NREF at grants@nref.org.

9. When will applicants be notified of the results of the selection process?

- The foundation expects to notify each applicant by March 15, 2017 however, the public announcement will be contingent upon receipt of written confirmation from awardees. The foundation reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to extend the date for it to provide notification of awards.

10. How will applications be evaluated?

- All applications for post-residency clinical fellowships are reviewed and evaluated by the NREF's Educational Grants Committee. The members of the Committee are appointed by the President of the AANS and must be non-conflicted. The Educational Grants Committee considers, among other things, whether an applicant institution is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education ("ACGME") and whether the institution is accredited by the Society of Neurological Surgeons Committee on Accreditation

of Subspecialty Training (“CAST”) in the particular subspecialty area for which it is applying. If a program is not CAST-accredited, it should demonstrate that it nonetheless satisfies the program requirements established by CAST in the particular subspecialty area for which it is applying.

11. Is fellowship accreditation by CAST required to qualify for funding by NREF?

- No, but fellowship accreditation by CAST is considered by the fellowship grant committee.
- Fellowship accreditation by CAST is strongly recommended. Applications for NREF fellowship grants are required to identify whether their fellowship is CAST approved. In addition, those fellowships who have applied for CAST accreditation, but have not yet completed the process, the date of CAST application and the current status of the accreditation process should be provided on the NREF Grant application.

12. How many applications for fellowship funding can be submitted annually from one institution?

- Institutions may apply for one fellowship per category per year with the exception of spine, for which one adult spine fellowship application and one pediatric spine fellowship application per institution will be accepted.

13. Can fellowship support be secured from more than one funding source?

- Funding for a fellowship awarded by the NREF through this program cannot be duplicated by any other outside funding source. For example, a \$75,000 spine fellowship cannot receive funding from the NREF at \$75,000 and a secondary funding source at \$75,000; only one can be accepted. However, a \$100,000 fellowship can receive funding from the NREF at \$75,000 and \$25,000 from a secondary source.

14. If the fellowship costs are above the \$75,000 or \$50,000 fellowship grant limit, how should that be reflected in the application?

- The maximum amounts of fellowship funding through the NREF’s post-residency fellowship grant program are capped at these amounts.