Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility requirements vary for each fellowship. Please see the ICO website for eligibility requirements: www.icoph.org/fellowships.

The following requirements generally apply to all fellowships:

- Applicants must be under 40 years of age at the time of applying.
- Residency training must be completed before applying.
- Specialist exam in ophthalmology must be successfully passed (except for the ICO-Retina Research Foundation Helmerich Fellowships).
- Applicants must return to their home countries after the training.
- Applicants must be reasonably fluent in the language of the fellowship training center.
- Applicants who have passed the ICO Basic Science, the ICO Clinical Sciences, or the ICO Advanced Examinations for Ophthalmologists (www.icoexams.org) will receive special consideration.
- Applicants from countries with ophthalmologic societies that are Members of the ICO will receive special consideration.

Contact ICO Fellowships

Veit-Peter Gabel, MD, FARVO
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Fellowships Executive

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Your Contribution Supports ICO Fellowships

The ICO Fellowships Program is supported by funds from the ICO and generous private donations, industry, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), foundations, and ICO Member societies.

If you wish to support the ICO Fellowships Program, please email info@icoph.org.

We would be happy to discuss donation options.

You may also make an online contribution through the ICOFoundation website: www.icofoundation.org.

Dr. Kuyureghyan Astghik from Armenia trained in Oculoplastics in Frankfurt/Main, Germany.

Dr. Astghik’s supervisor was Professor Christian Ohrloff.

COVER PHOTO: Dr. Deemah Abokwidir from Syria trained in Pediatric Ophthalmology, Strabismus, and Ophthalmogenetics in Munich, Germany.

Dr. Abokwidir is pictured with her supervisor, Professor Oliver Ehrt, and a patient. Dr. Abokwidir’s host was Professor Anselm Kampik.
ICO Fellowships Program
The International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) Fellowships Program was organized to help promising young ophthalmologists from developing countries improve their practical skills and broaden their perspectives of ophthalmology. Fellows are expected to bring the acquired knowledge and skills back to their home countries and take part in programs to preserve vision and prevent blindness.

ICO Three-Month Fellowships
These fellowships provide young ophthalmologists from developing countries with exposure to and training in several subspecialties in ophthalmology. The fellowship is intended to be flexible to meet the needs of different countries and individuals. Fellowships are supported by funds from the ICO, private donations, industry, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and ICO Member societies.

Approximately 60 ICO Three-Month Fellowships are awarded each year. The application deadlines are March 31 and September 30.

Learn more: [www.icoph.org/ICO-Three-Month](http://www.icoph.org/ICO-Three-Month).

One-Year Fellowships

ICO-Retina Research Foundation Helmerich Fellowships
This fellowship provides support for one year of ophthalmology subspecialty training. Fellowships are awarded to young ophthalmologists from developing countries who are committed to enhancing ophthalmic education and patient care in their home countries. The fellowship honors Mr. W. H. Helmerich III and is sponsored by the Retina Research Foundation in cooperation with the ICO Foundation.

Two ICO-Retina Research Foundation Helmerich Fellowships are awarded each year. The application deadline is September 30.


ICO-SAARC One-Year Subspecialty Fellowships
This is a fellowship exclusively for ophthalmologists from the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, or Sri Lanka), providing a combination of training with local, regional, and international hosts to improve education and access to eye care in the region. It is co-sponsored by the ICO and the Southasian Academy of Ophthalmology, and is supported by The Fred Hollows Foundation.

Ten to twelve ICO-SAARC One-Year Subspecialty Fellowships are awarded each year. The application deadline is September 30.

Learn more: [www.icoph.org/ICO-SAARC](http://www.icoph.org/ICO-SAARC).

ICO-Fred Hollows Foundation One-Year Subspecialty Fellowships
This fellowship provides young ophthalmologists from developing countries with subspecialty training at a designated ICO Fellowship Training Center or other fellowship training program. It is sponsored by the ICO and supported by the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Two ICO-Fred Hollows Foundation One-Year Subspecialty Fellowships are awarded each year. The application deadline is September 30.

Learn more: [www.icoph.org/ICO-FredHollows](http://www.icoph.org/ICO-FredHollows).

Online Application
Please visit the ICO website to create an account and view the online application. Applicants must create an account through the ICO website.

Online application: [www.icoph.org/application](http://www.icoph.org/application).

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page provides answers to questions about the application and fellowship program.

FAQ page: [www.icoph.org/fellowship-faq](http://www.icoph.org/fellowship-faq).

Fellowship Host Directory
An applicant’s eligibility must be determined through the online application system before they may select a host. Once the applicant is deemed eligible for their selected fellowship, the online application system will allow them to select and apply to a Host Training Center. Fellowships cannot be fulfilled in the applicant’s home country.

Subspecialties
The ICO Fellowships Program offers fellowships in most ophthalmic subspecialties.

The Host Training Center section of the online application lists hosts by name, medical center, subspecialty, country, and city. Applicants should consider the subspecialty they wish to study when they submit a host request.

Dr. Tiple Sweety from India trained in Oculoplastics in Lausanne, Switzerland.
Dr. Sweety is shown in the picture with her supervisor Dr. Aubeli Oberic. Her host was Professor Leonidas Zografos.

Dr. Sola Olawoye from Nigeria trained in Glaucoma in New York, New York, USA.
Dr. Olawoye’s supervisor was Dr. Robert Ritch.
Dr. Olawoye (seated) is shown here after she returned to Nigeria. She is teaching a resident.