



ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowships

The ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowships, honoring Mr. W. H. Helmerich III and sponsored by the Retina Research Foundation (RRF), provide support for one year of ophthalmology subspecialty training. Fellowships are awarded annually by the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) to young ophthalmologists from developing countries who are committed to enhancing ophthalmic education and patient care in their home countries.

Eligibility Criteria

Two ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowships are awarded each year to ophthalmologists who are:

- From a developing country and 40 years of age or less at time of application.
- Graduates of a resident – specialist training program.
- Recommended by the ophthalmology head of a teaching institution or public service hospital in a developing country.
- Accepted for ophthalmology subspecialty fellowship, one year in duration, at an advanced ophthalmology training center.
- Reasonably fluent in the language of the fellowship training center.
- Committed to return to a position at a teaching institution or public service hospital in the home country following fellowship.
- Candidates who have passed the ICO Examinations in Basic Science, Optics and Clinical Sciences will receive special consideration. However, passage of the ICO Examinations is not a requirement for application.

ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowship Award

Each ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowship Award consists of:

- Salary for one year (12 months) of fellowship in the amount of US\$20,000. From the salary, the fellow is responsible for payment of health insurance, professional liability insurance and living expenses during the fellowship.
- Transportation support for one round trip coach (economy) air travel or equivalent between the home country and the training country in an amount up to US\$2,000.
- Award to the training institution of US\$1,000 for training expenses.
- Requirements. Recipients of the fellowship are required to devote full time and effort to the fellowship program. Fellowship recipients are also required to provide a report and representative photographs of the fellowship experience at the conclusion of the training and a report of professional activities, including teaching and public service, three years after completion of the fellowship.

Application Documents

Candidates for the ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowships in 2012 are invited to apply by sending all of the following information and documents by email to helmerich@icoph.org prior to September 1, 2011.

1. Completion of the [Application Form](#) that provides Personal Information, Fellowship Information and Post-Fellowship Information.
2. Letter of application by the Candidate that states the goals of the fellowship training and describes how the training will be used to enhance education and eye care in the home country after fellowship.
3. Curriculum Vitae of the Candidate including education, training, honors, awards, and publications/presentations.
4. Documentation from the fellowship training institution confirming the candidate's acceptance for subspecialty fellowship one year or longer in duration at the advanced training center.
5. Letter of recommendation signed by the ophthalmology head of a teaching institution or public service hospital in a developing country that includes a description of the candidate's professional training and surgical experience, and states how the home country would benefit from the knowledge and skills of the candidate following fellowship.
6. Documentation from the ophthalmology head of a teaching institution or public service institute in a developing country regarding the professional position to be occupied by the Candidate following completion of fellowship and return to his or her home country.

The Application form, letters and required documents should be sent to the ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowship Committee by e-mail at helmerich@icoph.org prior to September 1, 2011.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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Am I eligible for the ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowship Program?

The ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowship was created to support young ophthalmologists from developing countries who wish to obtain subspecialty training and are committed to return to home countries to enhance ophthalmic education and patient care. To apply, you must be from a developing country and should be 40 years of age or less, but you will not automatically be excluded from eligibility if you are a few years older. You should have completed your residency – specialist training in ophthalmology, and meet the other criteria. If you have passed the ICO Examinations (<http://www.icoexams.org>), you will receive special consideration in the review process. However, passing the ICO Examinations is not a requirement to apply for an ICO – Helmerich International Fellowship.

How do I find a host? Which departments offer training for ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowships?

Please review the Fellowship Host Directory list of training centers) associated with the ICO International Fellowship. This lists the subspecialty programs of three months duration offered at each institution. These institutions may offer a one year subspecialty fellowship in the same subspecialties. However, you are not limited to the institutions listed in the Fellowship Host Directory. You may apply to any institution that is qualified to provide a complete program of subspecialty fellowship training (one year or longer in duration) on the basis of faculty expertise, teaching programs, publications and/or presentations at scientific meetings. The selection committee may consider the qualifications of the institution at which you will obtain training as a factor in evaluation of your application.

How long are ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowships?

The ICO – Helmerich RRF Fellowships are generally one year in duration. You are expected to commence a fellowship awarded in 2011 between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. Exceptions may be made for the duration of fellowship and this may range from 11 months to more than one year in duration. However, salary support and the fellowship award is for one year (12 months). Starting date for fellowship is also flexible and fellowship may begin at any time after the award is announced and may be scheduled to commence somewhat after December 31, 2012, but no later than June 1, 2013, unless the ICO – Helmerich RRF Fellowship Committee has approved the deferred start of fellowship.

What does the fellowship award cover?

The ICO – Helmerich International RRF Fellowship provides salary for one year (12 months) of fellowship in the amount of US\$20,000. From the salary, the fellow is responsible for payment of health insurance, professional liability insurance and living expenses during the fellowship. The award also provides transportation support for one round trip coach (economy) air travel or equivalent between the home country and the training country in an amount up to US\$2,000; reimbursement of transportation expense is in accordance with International Council of Ophthalmology travel reimbursement policies. Finally, The ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowship provides for an award to the training institution of US\$1,000 for training expenses. Recipients of the fellowship are required to devote full time and effort to the fellowship program. Fellowship recipients are also required to provide a report and representative photographs of the fellowship experience at the conclusion of the training and a report

of professional activities, including teaching and public service, three years after completion of the fellowship.

What happens after I have submitted by application?

After submission of your application (which must include all parts of the application and all required documents), you may expect to receive acknowledgement from the ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowship Committee. If you do not receive this in a timely manner, please resubmit the information or contact the Committee by e-mail at helmerich@icoph.org to ensure that your application has been received.

My application has been accepted for evaluation. When will I be informed about being awarded the fellowship?

All applications for the ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowships in 2012 must to be submitted prior to September 1, 2011. Generally, the international Selection Committee completes review and selection of the award recipients by November 1 or at an earlier date. All applicants are notified thereafter.

May I reapply?

If you continue to meet the eligibility criteria and provide a new complete application with updated information, you may reapply for the ICO – Helmerich RRF International Fellowship.

My address has changed. What should I do?

If your address has changed or there is an alteration in your position or other qualifications during the interval between submission of your application and evaluation by the Selection Committee, please send an e-mail with updated information to helmerich@icoph.org.