



UK Observership Awards

The Society of British Neurosurgeons (SBNS) is inviting applications for the following award

Neurosurgical Travel awards to UK

Closing date for applications: 1st Apr / 1st Oct

SBNS travel awards for overseas visitors from low income or low middle income countries* are designed to support a 6 week period as an observer in a UK or Ireland neurosurgical centre.

Applicants must have broad medical neurosurgical experience in a local neurosurgical training centre. Successful applicants will normally be senior level trainees, but more senior applicants with up to 2 years experience as a qualified neurosurgeon may also be considered at the discretion of the committee. Successful applicants will be awarded a grant of up to £7,000, the value of which is at the discretion of the SBNS global neurological surgery committee.

Applicants must demonstrate that

1. The period in UK or Ireland is an opportunity to enhance training and obtain surgical experience.
2. They have obtained prior approval for the visit from the appropriate training centre in the UK or Ireland
3. They have prospective approval from local training authorities or trainers as appropriate
4. They have adequate English language skills and neurosurgical knowledge to benefit from an observership.
5. They are a neurosurgical trainee or have been a neurosurgical trainee in the last 2 years

* Low income and Low middle income countries are defined by the world bank and listed at <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

The awards are for travel, maintenance and accommodation costs for the trainee only and may not be used for any associated costs of, for example, a spouse or partner. Travel for the sole purpose of attending a scientific meeting will not be supported but attendance at a relevant scientific meeting during the visit, where appropriate is encouraged and the committee will consider providing support.

The overseas visit from the successful applicant's home country/place of work will normally be for a period of 6 weeks. All applications must be made prior to embarking on the visit.

As a condition of the award, successful applicants are required to submit a report of their visit within two months of return to the SBNS global neurological surgery committee. Applicants who do not submit a report may have the award withdrawn.

Applicants must inform the SBNS global neurological surgery committee of any change in their circumstances which will prevent them from completing their visit. The SBNS may, on the advice of the SBNS global neurological surgery committee, withdraw all, or a proportion, of the initial award. We encourage applicants to seek additional funding from other sources, this must be declared on the application form. If a salary is offered during any part of the duration of the fellowship, the candidate must make this clear in the financial summary section of the application form.

The award is made in two stages, a first payment of half the amount awarded is made in advance of the visit and payment of the balance of the award is made upon receipt of a satisfactory report and receipts from the applicant after the visit has been completed. A budget will be required on application and receipts are required prior to the second part of the award being paid. The global neurological surgery committee will not pay any costs in the absence of a receipt. All expenses should be given in sterling.

Please email the following documents to clt29@medschl.cam.ac.uk

- Application form and budget
- Two references, one of which must be from the head of the department
- Letter of support from a host UK or Ireland neurosurgical unit signed by an SBNS full member
- Surgical logbook summary and curriculum vitae