

Fellowship Grant 2026 Announcement

(Closing Date: 31 March 2026)

Invitation

The Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology (APLAR) invites applications from science and medical graduates from APLAR member societies for its APLAR Fellowship grant. Up to **two (2) 6-month fellowship grants** and **one (1) 12-month fellowship grant** are available for the year 2026.

The **6-month fellowship grant** is open to trained rheumatologist undertaking post-rheumatology training in highly specialized area of either adult or paediatric rheumatology in a rheumatic disease unit outside his own country, preferably at an APLAR Center of Excellence, or others, for a period of six (6) months.

The **12-month fellowship grant** is open to physicians who have spent at least one year in rheumatology, to upscale themselves through further training in either adult or paediatric rheumatology in a rheumatic disease unit outside his own country, preferably at an APLAR Center of Excellence, for a period of twelve (12) months.

Ideally, candidates would be able to do a research project during his/her training, particularly for those who apply for the 12-month fellowship grant. The successful candidate must have a long-term commitment to continue research or clinical work in his/her own country at the conclusion of the Fellowship. The grant is to cover accommodation and subsistence costs.

All successful fellows are required to **submit a full report** to the APLAR Executive Committee **upon the completion of the Fellowship**, together with a **report from their supervisor**. Additionally, for those who apply **for the 12 months grant**, they are required to **submit data from the work carried out** (if any) during the Fellowship for **presentation at a subsequent APLAR Congress of Rheumatology**, and for **publication as a full scientific article** in an international peer-reviewed journal, preferably the International Journal of the Rheumatic Diseases. An acknowledgment of the APLAR grant must be included in the manuscript.

Applications for the APLAR Fellowship for a period up to 12 months must be stated up front when the candidate is applying for the Fellowship. The APLAR Executive Committee will not consider extensions of the APLAR Fellowship once the initial application has been approved.

If the applicant **fails to submit a report and a full scientific article for publication** (if applicable) within **six (6) months of completion** of the attachment, the APLAR Executive committee will not accept further grant applications from applicants of the same country for a further one (1) year. An email and hard copy letter will also be sent to the Head of the Department where the applicant works, and also to the President of the applicant's national rheumatology society.

Only completed applications with the correct supporting documents will be accepted. The decision of the APLAR Executive Committee on the award of these Fellowships is final.

Application

The offer is valid only for:

- Medical or science graduate of less than 45 years of age.
- Nationals of countries who are members of APLAR (clear of arrears for membership dues).

The following documents need to be enclosed with the application:

- Photocopy of birth certificate.
- Recommendation of the Head of Department where the applicant works at present.
- Recommendation of the Chairman or President of the national rheumatology society.
- A curriculum vitae including a recent 2 x 2-inch photograph.
- A general outline of the clinical and/or research work the applicant wishes to undertake (see below).
- A reference of good standing from the Dean of the candidate's medical school / university.

Outline of the proposal for applying APLAR Fellowship grants.

Please study the template below for proposal development and submission it along with the application form.

1. Applicant	Provide name, DOB, workplace and contact address of the applicants.
2. Institution to be trained	Provide the name of the institution to be trained (outside the applicant's own country)
3. Mentor	Provide the name, institution, and address of the person who will take care of or to be the applicant's mentor.
4. Letter of acceptance	Provide a written statement that the institute where the applicant wishes to work is able to accommodate the applicant's willingness of a consultant to supervise the programme.
5. Period of the fellowship	Indicate the period of fellowship program (6 or 12 months) from when to when.
6. Rational for the fellowship grant	Provide the rational/reason that the applicant applies the APLAR fellowship grants. What does he/she plan to study at the training institution? Why he/she want to study in that area? Provide an outline of the proposed experience that will be gained. If possible, provide the tentative activities in the training program.
7. Project of the study	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ If the applicant applies for the 12-month fellowship grant, he/she must also provide a study project along with this application. The proposal could be modified from the research grants application.▪ If the applicant applies for the 6-month, the proposal is not necessary. But the applicant can also submit a proposal (if any).
8. Expectation	Please provide what will the applicant get from the study? How will the experience be used to improve rheumatology care in his/her home countries? Etc.

The amount of grant will be as follows:

- USD 2,000/month for Asia Pacific countries.
- USD 2,200/month for United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Japan.
- In addition, one (1) round trip economy class airfare from the applicant's home country to the host country will be reimbursed.

Disbursement of Funds

The grant will be disbursed every three (3) months. The first disbursement, for the first 3 months, will be transferred directly into the fellow's account after his/her arrival and after a bank account has been opened in the host country. There will be a deduction of USD 1,000 in the last disbursement, which will only be transferred to the fellow's bank account in their home country after their report and supervisor's report have been received by the APLAR Executive Committee. For those on a 12-month Fellowship, a manuscript of the research done must be included before the final USD 1,000 is disbursed.

FPH-SSR-APLAR Fellowship Grant is also available to all Member National Organisations to apply. This grant is applicable for candidates who wish to apply for fellowship programme in Singapore. More information can be found at the [Singapore Society of Rheumatology website](#).

Application Period

Application for grant will open from [7 January](#) to [31 March 2026](#).

FELLOWSHIP GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Instructions

- A. Please read through the application carefully and include all the required information. There are four parts to this application:
- 1) Summary Information sheet;
 - 2) a Supplemental Information section;
 - 3) a Project Description; and
 - 4) a Biographical Sketch.
- Please make sure each section is complete.
- B. Submit the completed application and the related appendices, and email PDF of the application.
- C. Email application to:
- APLAR (FELLOWSHIP GRANT APPLICATION 2026)
Email: secretariat@aplar.org

Grant Application Deadline – Tuesday, 31 March 2026

Terms and Restrictions

- A. The **6-month fellowship grant** is open to **trained rheumatologist** undertaking **post-rheumatology training** in **highly specialized area** of either adult or paediatric rheumatology in a rheumatic disease unit **outside his own country**, preferably at an **APLAR Center of Excellence**, or others, for a **period of six (6) months**.
- B. The **12-month fellowship grant** is open to **physicians** who have spent **at least one year in rheumatology**, to **upscale themselves through further training** in either adult or paediatric rheumatology in a rheumatic disease unit outside his own country, preferably at an **APLAR Center of Excellence**, for a **period of twelve (12) months**.
- C. Applicants must clearly demonstrate understanding of Rheumatology or his or her collaboration with an investigator who has experience in this field of research. If collaboration is warranted, a letter of support from the collaborating researcher must be included in the application.
- D. The grant will be disbursed every three (3) months. The first disbursement, for the first 3 months, will be transferred directly into the fellow's account after his/her arrival and after a bank account has been opened in the host country. There will be a deduction of USD 1,000 in the last disbursement, which will only be transferred to the fellow's bank account in their home country after their report and supervisor's report have been received by the APLAR Executive Committee. For those on a 12-month Fellowship, a manuscript of the research done must be included before the final USD 1,000 is disbursed.
- E. For all successful Fellowship awardees, a full report is expected to be submitted to the APLAR Executive Committee upon the completion of the Fellowship, together with a report from their supervisor. For those who apply for the 12 months grant, they are required to submit data from the work carried out (if any) during the Fellowship for presentation at a subsequent APLAR Congress of Rheumatology, and for publication as a full scientific article in an international peer-reviewed journal, preferably the International Journal of the Rheumatic Diseases. An acknowledgment of the APLAR grant must be included in the manuscript.
- F. If the applicant **fails to submit a report** and a **full scientific article for publication (if applicable)** within **six (6) months** of completion of the attachment, the APLAR Executive committee will not accept further grant applications from applicants of the same country for a further one (1) year. An email and hard copy letter will also be sent to the Head of the Department where the applicant works and also to the President of the applicant's national rheumatology society.

Part One – Summary Information

1. Grant Applied for	:	6-Month Grant	12-month Grant
2. Title of Project			
2. Applicant Details			
Name	:		
Degree(s)	:		
Title	:		
Department	:		
Mailing Address	:		
Phone	:		
E-mail address	:		
3. Name and address of institution at which project will be performed			
Click or tap here to enter text.			
4. Dates of Proposed Period of Support <i>(month, day, year--MM/DD/YY)</i>			
From:		Through:	
5. Consent			
I have read and agree to the terms and restrictions			
6. Signatures			
<p>I certify that the statements made herein are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may disqualify me as a future applicant. I agree to accept responsibility for the scientific conduct of the project and to provide the required progress reports if a grant is awarded as a result of this application. I understand that failure to submit the required reports will result in repayment of the grant.</p>			
Name:		Date	
Applicant			
I certify that the statements herein are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.			
Name:		Date	
Department Chair/ Official of Institution			

Part Two – Supplemental Information

Summary.

Please attach a description of the project's specific aims. Include the research design and the methods to be employed. If the application is funded, this description may become public information (200-500 words).

Lay summary.

Please attach a summary which concisely and clearly describe the goals, methods, and importance of this project in plain language (100-200 words).

Part Three – Project Description

Please attach a description of your project. This description should be no more than six pages in length, typed single-spaced. Please make sure to include the following in your description:

1. Applicant	Provide name, DOB, workplace and contact address of the applicants.
2. Institution to be trained	Provide the name of the institution to be trained (outside the applicant's own country)
3. Mentor	Provide the name, institution, and address of the person who will take care of or to be the applicant's mentor.
4. Letter of acceptance	Provide a written statement that the institute where the applicant wishes to work is able to accommodate the applicant's willingness of a consultant to supervise the programme.
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8. Expectation	Please provide what will the applicant get from the study? How will the experience be used to improve rheumatology care in his/her home countries? Etc.

Part Four – Biographical Sketch

Please attach up-to-date CV.

For Official Use Only	
Part 1 Completed	Submitted for another grant
Part 2 Completed	COPCORD Grant
Part 3 Submitted	Research Grant
Part 4 Submitted	