

FACT Sheet for the IFFS G.R.O.W. (Global Routes for Opportunity and Work)

Visiting Fellow Program

Introduction

This program aims to promote international collaboration, expand clinical perspectives, and enhance professional development through short-term educational exchanges. The program will be **observation-based** and **self-funded**, ensuring accessibility while maintaining flexibility for both host centers and participants.

Program Model: Short-Term Clinical Observation Exchange

Duration: The exchange program will last between **2 and 4 weeks**.

Eligibility:

For doctors: Applicants must be members of the IFFS Next Generation group and should be either residents, fellows, or specialists within the first 5 years after completing their fertility fellowship training. A request form is available.

For nurses: Applicants must be members of the IFFS and should be either university students, PhDs or nurses within 10 years after completing their training in reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

For embryologists: Applicants must be members of the IFFS and should be either students, PhDs or embryologists within 10 years after completing their training.

For all Fellows: Health insurance covering the whole visit, including travel to and from the host centre, is a mandatory prerequisite. Fellows arrange it themselves and must hold it before they travel.

For centers: An ART Centre of excellence with recognized training in reproductive medicine, currently training fellows and willing to raise their profile on the international stage, under the IFFS recognition as an IFFS GROW Programme Centre. A special application form is available.

Structure: Participants will be placed in willing and approved fertility centers that are certified for excellence in reproductive medicine. The exchange will be **observational only**, meaning that participants will not perform hands-on clinical procedures but will instead observe and learn from clinical and laboratory practices and discussions among the practitioners in the host center.

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Educational Focus: During the exchange period, participants will observe and discuss various aspects of infertility, ART management, including:

- Evaluation of infertile couples
- Diagnostic testing and interpretation
- Clinical discussions and case evaluations
- Development of individualized treatment strategies
- Multidisciplinary decision-making in fertility care

- Embryology laboratory
- Surgical procedures related to reproduction and infertility

Expected Outcomes: Participants will gain insight into different clinical approaches to infertility evaluation and management, broaden their professional networks, and acquire knowledge that can be implemented in their own clinical environments.

Centre Recognition: The Centers enrolling in the IFFS GROW Visiting Fellow Programme will receive recognition on the IFFS website, under Education and staff in the center will be offered the opportunity to engage in the IFFS Global Education Programs. They will also be mentioned in the Education Report at World Congresses.

What IS expected from the centers who will join the IFFS GROW Visiting Fellow Programme

- To complete a simple suitability form detailing the below:
 - A local contact person from the fertility center, name, email and phone number
 - Dates that are available to host an IFFS GROW Fellow
 - Number Fellows the center can host during those available dates
 - Fertility service provided by the centre that the participant will be observing
 - Certification, recognition and aspects of excellence the center possesses (national/international).
 - Person in charge of the exchange
- To provide information on suitable accommodation and meals facilities for the GROW Fellow, the Fellow will be self-funded. An information leaflet to send to the participant before arrival is encouraged.
- Submit an exchange programme daily timetable for the Fellow.
- Fill in a short feedback form after the completion of the exchange (a questionnaire will also be sent to the exchange participant).
- Offer a letter of recognition of participation for the IFFS GROW Fellow after the programme ends and provide feedback to IFFS and the Fellow. A jointly signed Certificate could be provided, depending on agreement with each center.

What IS NOT expected from the centers that will join the IFFS GROW Visiting Fellow Programme

Checking eligibility of the exchange participants: IFFS has the responsibility to confirm the eligibility of the participant before the exchange.

Providing any financial support: Participants will self-fund their expenses during the exchange, including travel, accommodation, and meals. Hosting centers will be asked to provide information that can help the participant with their needs.

To give any documentation that might suggest the exchange participant can perform clinical duties in their own countries. A certificate of Fellow exchange presence and observational duties can be provided (See above).

To insure the exchange participant

To provide hands-on training on patients.

To involve the Fellow in ongoing research projects.

We encourage you to consider enrolling your services in the IFFS GROW Visiting Fellowship Programme and support the creation of a strong Next Generation of practitioners in Reproductive Medicine. A small seed today, a strong tree in the future!

Disclaimer

IFFS GROW is an observation-based educational exchange coordinated by the International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS). The educational activities during a visit are planned and delivered by the host centre. IFFS does not supervise them and is not responsible for their content, accuracy or quality, or for any advice, opinions or practices shared during the exchange.

GROW Fellows and host centres take part at their own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by law, IFFS accepts no liability for any accident, injury, illness, loss, theft, or damage to property or equipment, whether suffered or caused by a Fellow, a host centre or anyone else, before, during or after a visit, including while travelling and in accommodation.

Each Fellow is responsible for their own conduct and for following the host centre's rules and local law. Health insurance covering the whole visit is mandatory, and Fellows are also advised to hold travel and personal liability insurance. Any arrangement between a Fellow and a host centre is a matter between them.

By applying to IFFS GROW, Fellows and host centres accept these terms.