

Interventional Nephrology Training Courses

Practical Details for ISN Interventional Nephrology
Training Courses Applicants
2021 edition

[Application Platform](#)

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Table of Contents

From your first step in the application process to your return upon completion of your training, this document is meant as a guide that will help you all throughout your ISN Interventional Nephrology Scholarship.

The ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Courses have one application round per year, on *April 1, 2021*.

1.	Making sure you are eligible	3
2.	Preparing your application file	7
3.	Submitting your application	10
4.	Reviewing process	10
5.	Outcome.....	11
6.	Living in your Host Institution	12
7.	Finishing your training	13
8.	Acknowledgement.....	13

1. MAKING SURE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE

CONTEXT

The demand for interventional nephrology training has been steadily growing in low- or middle-income countries, where number of interventionalists is very limited, and patients often miss dialysis treatment because of vascular access problems. Interventional nephrology training for young nephrologists in low- or middle-income countries is rarely available. ISN offers funding for training in the ISN-recognized Interventional Nephrology Training Centers.

ISN Interventional Nephrology Scholars will be trained to provide better quality of care for dialysis patients and to continue to train other healthcare professionals within their region. At the end of their training, Scholars may receive further support and guidance through the ISN Educational Ambassadors Program to ensure the successful establishment of best practices in the local setting.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

If you can answer positively all these questions, you are ready to proceed with your application.

- Are you an ISN full member? You can become a member by visiting <https://www.theisn.org/join-the-isn/become-a-member/>.
- Are you below 45 years old?
- Are you living and working in a low- or middle-income country according to the World Bank? <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>
- Are you nominated by a Home Mentor and your Home Institution guaranteeing your re-employment and that you will be able to implement trained skills and knowledge once training has been completed?
- Have you agreed on a suitable training plan with the Host Mentor of one of the recognized ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Centers?
- Does your training plan reflect the skills and knowledge that are required by your Home Institution and which you can implement on your return?
- Are you endorsed by the national society of nephrology in your home country? If you are applying from a country where there is no nephrology practice, you can apply for a Fellowship training only if you have governmental or institutional support to set up a nephrology program upon your return
- Can you understand and communicate in the host country's language?
- Are you willing to guarantee your return to your home country within three months of completing the training? (Otherwise all funds received from ISN must be refunded).

We strongly advise you to look for information about practical issues (tax, housing, transportation, security) in the host city prior to applying.

Applications should preferably involve movement between two countries. In case there is no movement between two countries, there must at least be movement between two cities, otherwise no funding will be provided.

ISN INTERVENTIONAL NEPHROLOGY TRAINING COURSES

ISN INTERVENTIONAL NEPHROLOGY PROCEDURES:

The procedures of the ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Courses include:

- Tunneled and non-tunneled central venous catheter placement.
- Peritoneal dialysis catheter insertion.
- Diagnostic angiography.
- Therapeutic endovascular therapy (angioplasty, thrombectomy, etc).
- Native and transplant kidney biopsy.
- Ultrasonography of vascular access.

LEVEL 1 – FOUNDATION COURSE – SHORT COURSE OF 2-4 WEEKS:

The Foundation Course is set up for trainees who need training in a specific procedure listed in the training curriculum.

This course is useful for trainees who want to learn specific procedure such as tunneled HD catheter insertion, PD catheter insertion or kidney biopsy based on the resources and situation they encountered. However, they can observe or assist cases in the curriculum, which broaden their knowledge and expertise in dialysis access management.

LEVEL 2 – ADVANCED COURSE – 3 MONTHS:

The Advanced Course is set up for trainees who need training in a broad spectrum of procedures listed in the training curriculum, especially endovascular procedures.

This course is useful for trainees who want advanced level training such as broad endovascular procedures. The trainees will be able to start interventional nephrology program immediately after return if facility and equipment for the procedures are ready.

The Advanced Course mandates a minimum number of procedures in 3 months as follows:

- CVC (tunneled and non-tunneled): 10 procedures and 50% performed independently.
- Tunneled PD catheter: 10 procedures and 50% performed independently.
- Acute PD catheter: 10 procedures and 50% performed independently.
- Diagnostic angiography and Endovascular procedures: 20 procedures and 50% performed independently.
- Kidney biopsy: 5 native and 5 transplant biopsies performed independently using USG. Simultaneous understanding of the tissue processing needs for histopathology reading.

INTERVENTIONAL NEPHROLOGY ELEARNING PROGRAM:

The ISN Interventional Nephrology Scholars MUST complete the 'ISN Interventional Nephrology eLearning Program' before starting the Foundation or Advanced Training Course at the Host Institution.

These didactic components are standardized for all Scholars on the [ISN Academy](#) and include the following sessions:

- Introduction to interventional nephrology.
- Fundamentals of vascular anatomy.
- Fundamentals of vascular access – Catheter, AVF, AVG.
- Physiology of AV access dysfunction.
- Monitoring and surveillance techniques principles.
- Physical examination of AV access.
- Central venous catheter and its complications.
- Management of catheter related blood stream infection.
- Safety rules for interventional nephrology procedures – sedation, radiation, infection prevention.
- Physics of ultrasonography and its roles in AV access assessment.
- Basics knowledge on tools used to perform interventional nephrology procedures.
- CVC designs for temporary/bridge access.
- PD catheter – design, placement steps, complications.
- Kidney biopsy – needles, sample handling, indications and complications.

ISN INTERVENTIONAL NEPHROLOGY TRAINING CENTERS:

There are 12 centers officially recognized as ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Centers located in the 10 regions of the world.

All the ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Centers are qualified for the Foundation Course (2 to 4 weeks, Level 1) and the Advanced Course (3 months, Level 2) specifically in the procedures approved by ISN.

Training is normally provided by nephrologists. However, trainers can be surgeons or radiologists when they have officially agreed to train nephrologists as a part of the team.

Here are the 12 centers officially recognized as ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Centers:

Center	City	Country	Region	Liaison Officer	Email Address	Chief of Nephrology
Zenith Kidney Center	Abuja	Nigeria	Africa	Adegboyega Faponle	adeponle007@yahoo.com	Olalekan Olatise
University Medical Centre	Ljubljana	Slovenia	EC Europe	Alexander Jerman	alexander.jerman@ukclj.si	Jadranka Buturović-Ponikvar
INC 'Ignacio Chávez'	Mexico	Mexico	Latin America	Bernardo González	nefrointervencioninc@gmail.com	Magdalena Madero
Peruvian Asso. Vas. Access	Lima	Peru	Latin America	Edwin Castillo	edwin.castillo@urp.edu.pe	Edwin Castillo
King Faisal Hospital	Riyadh	Saudi Arabia	Middle East	Muhammad U. Ullah	mullah@kfshrc.edu.sa	Mohammed Al Sunaid
Azerbaijan Medical Uni.	Baku	Azerbaijan	NIS & Russia	Elgun Haziyevev	dr_haziyevev@mail.ru	Elgun Haziyevev
Glickman Institute	Cleveland	USA	North America	Tushar Vachharajani	tvachh@gmail.com	Tushar Vachharajani
Kaikoukai Central Clinic	Nagoya	Japan	NE Asia	Takashi Sato	t-sato@kaikou.or.jp	Takashi Sato
St. Mary's Hospital	Seoul	Korea Rep.	NE Asia	Yong-Soo Kim	kimcmc@catholic.ac.kr	Cheol Whee Park
Hospital Selayang	Batu Caves	Malaysia	OSEA	Hin-Seng Wong	hinseng@gmail.com	Hin-Seng Wong
AIIMS	New Delhi	India	South Asia	Sanjay Agarwal	skagarwalnephro@gmail.com	Sanjay Agarwal
St. Helier's Hospital	Carshalton	UK	West. Europe	Bhriugu Raj Sood	b.sood@nhs.net	Virginia Quan

Here are the procedures of Foundation and Advanced Courses the selected centers provide training in:

Center	Country	Region	Non-tunneled & Tunneled CVC placement	Native & Transplant kidney biopsy	PD catheter insertion	Endovascular procedures
Zenith Kidney Center	Nigeria	Africa	Yes	-	-	-
University Medical Centre	Slovenia	EC Europe	-	Yes	-	-
INC 'Ignacio Chávez'	Mexico	Latin America	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Peruvian Asso. Vas. Access	Peru	Latin America	Yes	-	-	Yes
King Faisal Hospital	Saudi Arabia	Middle East	Yes	-	-	Yes
Azerbaijan Medical Uni.	Azerbaijan	NIS & Russia	Yes	-	-	-
Glickman Institute	USA	North America	Yes	Yes	-	Yes
Kaikoukai Central Clinic	Japan	NE Asia	-	-	-	Yes
St. Mary's Hospital	Korea Rep.	NE Asia	Yes	Yes	-	Yes
Hospital Selayang	Malaysia	OSEA	Yes	-	Yes	-
AIIMS	India	South Asia	Yes	Yes	-	-
St. Helier's Hospital	UK	West. Europe	Yes	Yes	Yes	-

2. PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION FILE

You can access and prepare your submission through [the ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Courses application portal](#).

Your application will only be considered as complete if it contains ALL the following documents:

APPLICATION FILE

- The completed and duly signed [application form](#) (online).
- An acceptance letter from the Host Institution.
- A [curriculum vitae](#) (CV) of maximum 3 pages.
- [Applicant's letter and training plan](#) describing the goals and objectives and how the training will benefit and impact the Home country and Institution (250 words). The letter should include the candidate aspirations and at least 5 specific goals against which the success of the ISN Interventional Nephrology Scholarship will be judged home and how the training will benefit your Home country and Host Institution. It should be countersigned by your Home Mentor and hospital director.
- A [nomination letter from your Home Mentor](#) guaranteeing you will implement trained skills and knowledge once training has been completed and explicitly stating adherence to the Declaration of Istanbul.
- A letter from your Home Institution guaranteeing re-employment.
- A [letter by relevant local society](#) leader describing the number of nephrologists and/or interventional nephrologists in home country, current education opportunities and how the training might impact the local nephrology standards. If there is no local society, a letter from the regional society will be fine. You can find ISN affiliated societies on our website. If you are applying from a country where there is no nephrology practice, you can apply for a Scholarship training only if you have governmental or institutional support to set up an interventional nephrology program upon your return.

GENERAL TIPS AND COMMENTS

APPLICATION:

The application is a lengthy process and we recommend you allocate enough time for it before submission. The ISN can only fund a limited amount of ISN Interventional Nephrology Scholars each year and only candidates with a strong application file are accepted.

FORMS:

Your application must be submitted via the [online application system](#). The ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group will not rank your application if sent by email or fax.

LETTERS:

Make sure all letters are written under official letterheads and duly signed. They will not be considered valid otherwise.

TRAINING PLAN:

The members of the ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group who score your application expect an indication from the Host Institution of the training to be provided, with sufficient details to help them judge that there is a match between your aspirations, the Host Center's offer and the strategy of the Home Center. It is highly recommended that the Host Mentor adjoins a specific training plan to his letter of acceptance. **Do not neglect this part and make sure you allocate an appropriate amount of time with your Host Mentor to establish jointly a strong training plan.**

RE-EMPLOYMENT AND RETURN HOME:

Make sure the letters clearly state that your Home Institution guarantees your re-employment, and that that you will be able to implement trained skills and knowledge upon completion of your training.

ISN MEMBERSHIP:

In order to be eligible, you need to be an ISN full member.

Both your Home and Host Mentors must be current ISN full members as well. This is a key condition for your application to be eligible. If their membership fees are not paid, the application will not be submitted to the ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group. If you wish us to invite them to enrol and/or wish them to have a list of the benefits of ISN membership, do not hesitate to contact ISN HQ (membership@theisn.org) or visit the ISN Membership pages on the [ISN website](#).

LANGUAGE:

The application and all enclosed documents **must** be written in English. Documents submitted in any other language will not be submitted to the ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group. No exception to this rule will be made.

It is the responsibility of the Host and Home Institutions to ensure that the applicant's language capabilities are sufficient to efficiently undertake the ISN Interventional Nephrology training course and meet any language proficiency requirements of the Host country. The ISN does not conduct any language tests.

HANDS-ON TRAINING VS OBSERVERSHIP:

For applications to the Foundation Course, the ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group will prioritise applications for hands-on training, the impact of which will be greater upon return at the Home Institution.

For applications to the Advanced Course, the ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group will only consider applications for hands-on procedure-oriented training (vascular access, PD catheter insertion, renal biopsies, interventional radiology, etc). Applicants will be required to provide evidence that direct hands-on clinical care is allowed at the Host Institution.

While establishing the training plan, please make sure that you will be able to have direct contact with patients. This requires a medical license from your host country that will allow you to provide direct clinical care.

In the event that only 'observership' training should be possible, please make sure to justify how this will be useful to the home country.

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS:

In some countries, training with a clinical emphasis is contingent upon specific licensing requirements

- Applicants for centers in the **USA** and **Canada** must be aware that the USMLE examination is necessary for clinical training and direct patient access.
- Applicants for centers in the **United Kingdom** must obtain the GMC registration for clinical training and direct patient access.
- It is also the case in **Australia** and **South Africa**, where specific licences are required.

Kindly note that the ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group may decide to retain the payment of a Scholarship grant in the event that the lack of licence prevents from meeting the clinical objectives of the training.

Please make sure to initiate registration processes for these licences as soon as you are accepted at the Host Center.

INTRAREGIONAL TRAININGS

The ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group will prioritise applications for intraregional training when possible. Over recent years, the ISN Programs have expanded to allow and encourage opportunities for nephrologists from emerging countries to train in well-developed Host Centers in their own region, rather than exclusively in North America, Europe, or Australasia. Regional centers are more likely to guarantee hands-on training.

CANDIDATES ALREADY AT HOST INSTITUTIONS

Scholars that are already in training at their Host Institution are not eligible to apply for a grant and their applications will not be considered by the ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group.

DECLARATION OF ISTANBUL (DOI):

Following ISN's adherence to the Declaration of Istanbul, it has become an important requirement and a criterion of selection that all parties in ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Courses confirm they endorse the Declaration of Istanbul.

DOUBLE APPLICATIONS:

Applications with acceptance in more than one Host Center will not be eligible.

Any other specific host requirements that are not mandatory for ISN should be formulated by the Host Institution.

TUITION FEE FROM HOST INSTITUTION:

No tuition fees should be paid by ISN Interventional Nephrology Scholars, and in the event that the Host Institution is charging academic costs, the applicant should declare them on the application form.

3. SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

The ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Courses have one application round per year, on **April 1, 2021**.

You can register and complete your application on [the application portal](#).

All information provided is entered into a database for future reference and is verified by the ISN Headquarters. Upon receipt of the application form and check for completion by the ISN Headquarters, a confirmation will be sent to you. If your application is not complete, you will receive an email specifying the missing details and you will need to re-submit it.

The results are announced via email approximately a month after the deadline, i.e. in February 2021.

No application will be accepted past the above deadlines. It is therefore highly recommended that you start the process months ahead as it can sometimes take time to gather all necessary documents.

Application deadline	April 1, 2021
Announcement of results	June 2021
Start of training	Between July 2021 and February 2022
Return home	Within a month upon completion of the Interventional Nephrology Training Course

4. REVIEWING PROCESS

All applications are reviewed by members of the ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group. The selection of the most deserving applicants is based upon an objective and fair scoring system. The scoring reflects various factors such as:

- Academic qualifications (level of training possibilities within home country and applicant's qualifications to undertake proposed training plan).
- Your past experience and achievements.
- Hands-on training vs observership.
- Detailed training plan with focused objectives.
- Adequateness of match between the training plan and training opportunities at the Host Institution.
- Relevance and need by the Home Institution as well as the potential impact of the training (contribution to the progress of local nephrology).
- Available resources at the Home Institution for practice after the training.
- The strength and relevance of the recommendation letters.

You should make sure that you present, as part of your application, a detailed and coherent training plan justifying the proposed training, describing your goals, ambitions and expectations, and giving cogent reasons for your choice of Host Center.

Due to the competitive nature of the ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Courses, you are always compared to all other candidates and your chances of success depend very much on the number of applicants as well as their relative strengths and weaknesses.

5. OUTCOME

Approximately a month after the application deadline, all applicants are notified in writing about their acceptance or rejection in the ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Courses. The successful candidates will be informed about their grant and their names will be announced on the ISN website.

Once you have started making your travel arrangements and applying for a visa (if necessary), you must inform the ISN Headquarters about your exact starting date.

IMPORTANT NOTES

You have up to three chances to apply for an ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Course under the same Host Mentor.

6. LIVING IN YOUR HOST INSTITUTION

INSURANCES

ISN cannot be held liable for any consequences related to travelling or staying abroad. The responsibility for procuring health/accident and travel insurances remains with the Scholar; you or your relatives cannot hold ISN responsible in the event of untoward events or experiences.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ISN will support ISN Interventional Nephrology Scholars with a grant to contribute to their travel, accommodation and living costs during the training.

ISN Interventional Nephrology Scholarships are awarded on the condition that Scholars return to their respective home country within a month after completion of the training to actively practice nephrology, teach, and help improve the standards of medical treatment and education in your home country. Failure to do so, unless exempted in writing by the ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group Chair, means you are in violation of the conditions of the ISN Interventional Nephrology Training Courses and must pay back the grant money to the ISN.

The total sum of the grant is in alignment with the length of the training and varies according to the anticipated expenses in the host country, as per World Bank data. Grants are intended to cover, or offset, all costs related to the Fellowship, including travel, accommodation and living expenses. The grant is intended to cover expenses of the Scholar, not his/her family.

In order to receive your grant or first instalment (if you are on a long-term training), you must fill out the payment request form and send it to the ISN Headquarters through the online system. This document must be signed by your Host Mentor in order to be valid. If all information is in good order, you would receive your grant within the next 2 weeks. It is therefore advised that you take some spending money in order to cover your expenses upon your arrival.

You may opt to receive your payment either in the form of a wire transfer or a check (not recommended). The payment can also be sent to your Host Institution if more convenient to you.

Towards the end of the first 6 months, you must again send a "Payment Request Form" to Headquarters to obtain the second instalment payment (for applicable Fellowships).

Please note that ISN does not have any information on local tax policies.

PICTURES

The ISN would be very thankful to receive pictures of your training at any time. These may be used in the ISN website and social media channels, and any publications on ISN Programs.

7. FINISHING YOUR TRAINING

You are required to return home within a month after completion of your training and must work in your Home Institution for a period of at least 3 years and fill a long-term position in your home country in line with your training objectives. Failure to show proof of return home will result in you having to return all received grant money to the ISN.

By the end of the training, you must complete the end-of-training report (a form is available through the online application system). Your Host Mentor will be requested to fill out a short report about your performance. Those reports are expected within a month after the end of your training.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

After verification and approval of the reports by the ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group, Scholars will receive a certificate '*Completion of Interventional Nephrology (Foundation or Advanced) Training Course*' from ISN at the end of training period based on the type of trained procedures, number of performed procedures, and a short report about trainee's performance from host mentor (ex. certificate of endovascular procedures, certificate of tunneled HD catheter insertion).

You can send your training report through [the online application portal](#).

MONITORING OF COURSES


To evaluate the program, faculty and facilities of the center where Scholars were trained, ISN sends out a survey to trainees shortly after the completion of the training.

In order to monitor the Scholars' accomplishments and to assess how this program has helped them in their practices back home, ISN sends out a questionnaire to past trainees every year for 2 years of the completion of the training.

It is expected that Scholars complete these questionnaires – ISN indeed attaches great importance to maintaining a relationship with all ISN grantees.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This initiative has been elaborated by the ISN Interventional Nephrology Working Group. ISN would like to thank the group for their contribution, and especially its Chair, Prof. Yong-Soo Kim.

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