

A Proposal for EACTAIC-ESAIC Collaborative Support for the Specialist Exchange Programme* in the field of Thoracic, Vascular Anaesthesia and Critical Care^

*This will take the form of ‘**Observership**’ subject to licensing and host centre approval

^as per EACTAIC definition

Background:

The European Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care (ESAIC) has a particular interest in supporting training exchange programmes for trainees and qualified anaesthesiologists at the beginning of their career (e.g., residents, specialists and newly appointed consultants) working in Europe in order to pursue a subspecialty training (Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anaesthesia or Critical Care) in a European Centre of Excellence. ESAIC has its own Training Exchange Programme (TEP) Committee, which is working on attracting and selecting those enthusiastic European young doctors who would benefit most from spending up to three months in a “centre of excellence”. That has been shown to positively impact their training, attitudes, and skills to approach problems and find solutions. [1] Additionally, the ESAIC TEP Committee is working to recruit Host Centres for the exchange training programmes. This network may be further expanded through collaboration with the National Anaesthesiologists Societies Committee and the accredited European Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care (EACTAIC).

Currently, EACTAIC has developed three well-structured Exchange Training “**Observership**” Programmes at five high volume centres in Spain, France, and Germany as follows.

- 1) Two weeks’ **Thoracic Anaesthesia Exchange Training period** as an observer at one of the approved host centres with a high volume of thoracic surgery cases. [2]
 - 1.1. Consorcio Hospital General Universitario de Valencia (Spain) for up to 20 positions per year.
 - 1.2. Hospital Clínic de Barcelona (Spain) for up to 20 positions per year.
- 2) Four weeks’ **Exchange Training period in Critical Care Medicine** as an observer at one of the approved critical care units with a high volume of critically ill cases. [2]
 - 2.1. Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Montpellier (France) for up to 9 positions per year.

- 3) Two-to-four weeks' **Vascular Anaesthesia Exchange Training period** as an observer at one of the approved host centres with a high volume of vascular surgery cases. [3]

3.1. Hospital Clínic de Barcelona (Spain) for up to 6 positions per year.

3.2. Charité Campus Benjamin Franklin, Berlin (Germany) for up to 6 positions per year

Each of these programmes has defined learning objectives, descriptions, and timetables for training and teaching methods. [1]

These EACTAIC Observership Training Exchange Programmes are open to worldwide interested trainees/specialists who are successful in securing a scholarship, educational grant, or can afford their travel expenses, accommodation etc.

EACTAIC Training Exchange Programmes has seen more than 40 trainees complete the programme since its commencement in July 2017, despite suspending the programmes during the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to April 2022..

Currently, ESAIC operates a successful Trainee Exchange Programme administered by the TEPC (Trainee Exchange Programme Committee). There are set eligibility criteria for both Host Centre applications and candidates (trainees in their final 2 years of training or first 2 years of independent practice). Candidates are ranked in order of merit using an agreed scoring system and matched to their preferred host centre. A virtual 'preliminary visit' takes place between the respective candidates and hosts and if approved the training programme of up to 3 months will ensue. The number of successful candidates has been limited by the number of grants available each year (this has increased over the years from 4 to 15).

This new proposed 'Specialist Exchange Programme' could be construed as a 'probation period' for a full-fledged EACTAIC Fellowship without competing with it.

Shaping the new proposed "Specialist Exchange Programme" (SEP)

EACTAIC commits to

- maintaining the Host Centre database.
- Quality Assurance/Accreditation.
- communication with centres including feedback.
- adapt the existing learning objective to the needs of the new proposed programme.

ESAIC TEP Committee will

- administer the call.
- carry out the selection and ranking of candidates in liaising with EACTAIC.
- oversee the matching of successful candidates and available centres/periods.
- maintain and manage the communication with candidates including feedback

A 'Virtual Preliminary Visit' between candidate and host precedes the actual Specialist Exchange Programme which will take the form of '**Observership**' subject to licensing and host centre approval

Duration: 2 weeks up to 3 months

Funding/grant: to be reviewed and approved by the ESAIC Board of Directors prior to each call (for now referred to as ‘limited grant’)

Objectives:

- The present proposal aims to strengthen the interest and efforts of EACTAIC and ESAIC in supporting suitable enthusiastic trainees and young specialist keen to further their knowledge in Thoracic and Vascular Anaesthesia and Critical Care
- To provide high-quality education to each candidate at a high-volume specialised accredited EACTAIC Hosting Centre through an ‘observership’ subjects to licensing without competing with the EACTAIC Fellowship.
- To augment both mobility and vocational training throughout Europe through a collaboration between EACTAIC and ESAIC.
- To promote the leadership roles of EACTAIC and ESAIC in the development of clinical services through offering high quality training and extensive exposure. Undoubtedly this will attract an increased visibility of both societies.

Requirements for the Applicants comply with both EACTAIC and ESAIC regulations. [1-4]

ESAIC has the right to select the candidates according to the following rules.

- (1.1) The policy and procedures for ESAIC TEP Committee will include that the applicant must be in his/her first five years of independent (post-training) practice/**Specialist actively working in Europe** (WHO recognised countries).
- (1.2) Fulfilling the local requirement of the EACTAIC hosting centres in terms of the language proficiency, local legal requirements, and availability of vacant seats during the preferred period. That would be addressed in liaising between the EACTAIC Education Chair, Programme Director(s) at the EACTAIC hosting centre and EACTAIC and ESAIC TEP Secretariats.
- (1.3) Approval of the SEP by the Programme Director(s) at the preferred EACTAIC hosting centre following a virtual preliminary visit.
- (1.4) The applicant should have a good-standing EACTAIC membership and full-or-associate ESAIC membership as per the **Agreement of Collaboration between ESAIC and EACTAIC** (effective from June 1, 2019). The duration of required membership will be reviewed periodically.

Certification:

- The candidates will receive an electronic certificate of attendance countersigned by EACTAIC Programme Director, EACTAIC Education Chair, and Chair of ESAIC TEP Committee.

Assessment of the Programme:

- Quality assurance will be assessed through collecting and reviewing the feedback form from both specialists and host centres.
- Encourage trainees to publish their reports in the ESAIC e-Newsletters, ESAIC Trainees Network, and EACTAIC Social Networking platforms (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram).

Marketing:

- EACTAIC would market the call for applications to the EACTAIC-ESAIC Specialist Exchange Programme in its newsletters, website and four social media platforms.
- ESAIC would also market the call for applications to the EACTAIC-ESAIC SEP in its newsletters, website and social media platforms.

References:

1. European Society of Anaesthesiology Trainee Exchange Programme Committee Policy. Effective from December 1, 2016. Accessed on February 09, 2022. <https://www.esaic.org/education/trainee-exchange-programme/>
2. European Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care (EACTAIC) Thoracic Exchange Training Programme. Effective from July 2017. Accessed on February 09, 2022. <https://www.eactaic.org/education-research/exchange-training-programme/#1578495924997-b7b6720f-1526>
3. European Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care (EACTAIC) Adult Fellowship Training Programme. Effective from July 2017. Accessed on February 09, 2022. <https://www.eactaic.org/education-research/fellowship-in-ctva/>
4. European Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care (EACTAIC) Paediatric Fellowship Training Programme. Effective from July 2017. Accessed on February 09, 2022. <https://www.eactaic.org/education-research/fellowship-in-pca/>

Signatures
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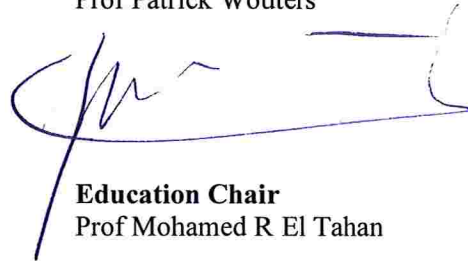


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