

Criteria for ESMS-approved fellowship in Mohs or Micrographic Surgery

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ESMS has previously listed the criteria to be an ESMS certified Mohs or Micrographic Surgeon and a trainer. One of the most important aspects of being a good Mohs or Micrographic surgeon is a solid training that includes a high number of cases performed under the supervision of an ESMS-approved trainer. The best way to reach this goal is by completing a fellowship program for a defined period of time, specifically dedicated to teaching Mohs or Micrographic Surgery.

Currently, there are only very few training options in Europe specifically dedicated to Mohs or Micrographic Surgery and they have very varied curricula. ESMS itself cannot offer such fellowships, but as a society would like to support all Universities and institutions offering such programs. In order to guarantee certain quality criteria for these fellowships, ESMS has established a list of criteria that such a fellowship program must fulfill in order to be recognized as an ESMS-approved fellowship. The criteria listed include aspects with regards to the fellowship director, the institution, the teaching contents and prerequisites for the trainee. The criteria listed are minimal criteria, i.e. many programs will have higher requirements or larger caseloads, but successfully completing an ESMS-approved fellowship will provide the trainee with the necessary requirements to become an ESMS-approved Mohs or Micrographic Surgeon.

Many institutions in Europe offer training in classic Mohs surgery or in Micrographic Surgery with paraffin sections or both. Each fellowship programme will have to fulfill the requirements for either Mohs or Micrographic surgery and will be recognized for the type of surgery taught in the programme.

Below is a list of the minimal requirements for a fellowship programme to be recognized:

Fellowship director

- ESMS trainer
- Must take full responsibility for the programme
- Academic orientation (regular publications / presentations)
- Regular attendance of ESMS meetings

Fellow

- Board certified dermatologist
- EADV member
- ESMS associate member

Caseload and academic requirements

- Duration of fellowship at least 1 year
- Participation in > 200 cases, > 100 cases operated by fellow as primary surgeon under supervision of program director or other ESMS-certified surgeon
- Majority of cases with flap or graft reconstruction
- > 50 complex cases

- Reading of pathology slides of all cases of frozen section Mohs surgery. For Micrographic surgery, reading the slides must also be part of the training and can be performed in collaboration with a dermatopathologist.
- At least one publication of a case or original research in a peer-reviewed journal
- At least one presentation regarding Mohs or Micrographic Surgery at an international meeting
- Attendance of at least one ESMS, ACMS or ASMS meeting
- Planned time slots / structure for regular case discussions with program director

Infrastructure

- Dedicated Lab
 - o For Mohs surgery, the lab must be in within easy walking distance in the same building complex as the operating rooms, with dedicated lab technician trained in Mohs surgery
 - o For Micrographic surgery with paraffin sections, the lab can be in a separate building, but must be able to provide the sections within 24-48 hours, unless special stains or immunohistochemical examinations are performed
- Operating rooms fulfilling local requirements for dermatosurgical procedures, including flap and graft reconstructions. It is recommended to have at least two operating rooms available for an efficient workflow of Mohs patients.
- Possibility for hospitalization of patients or close collaboration with a hospital allowing for hospitalization if needed
- Documented collaboration with other specialities
- Possibility to discuss patients at a tumor board

Administrative conditions

- Reimbursement of the fellow according to local customs
- Fellow must have the right to practice as an employed physician under local law
- Documentation of case log
- A site visit will be performed by ESMS during the first year of a new fellowship program (costs to be carried by ESMS, until further notice)