

PARTICIPANTS GRANT EVALUATION GUIDELINES

ESJ Meet the Experts™ 2025 Course

Complex Spine Surgery

May 9 & 10, 2025 - Venice, Italy



Evaluation Guidelines and Criteria for the Grant Evaluation Committee

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure a fair, transparent, and consistent process for evaluating grant applications. The selection process will be based on the following criteria:

1. Evaluation Process

1. *Application Review*: Each committee member will independently review and score the applications based on the criteria outlined below.
2. *Scoring Rubric*: Scores will be assigned for each criterion using a standardized scale (e.g., 1 to 5, where 1 = Poor and 5 = Excellent).
3. *Final Selection*: After individual evaluations, the committee will convene to discuss and finalize the grant recipients. In case of tied scores, priority will be given based on additional discussions or specific committee decisions.

2. Evaluation Criteria

Each application will be evaluated on the following criteria:

A. Professional Experience (35%)

- Relevance of the candidate's clinical or research activities to the topics of complex spine surgery.
- Demonstrated expertise or potential in the field.
- Years of experience in orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, or related specialties.

Scoring Guide:

- 5: Significant and directly relevant experience in complex spine surgery.
- 4: Strong experience with some relevant involvement in spine surgery.
- 3: Moderate experience in relevant areas.
- 2: Limited experience with minimal relevance to spine surgery.
- 1: Insufficient or no relevant experience.

FOR APPLICATIONS:

www.rizzolaacademy.it/MTE2025

Evaluation Guidelines and Criteria for the Grant Evaluation Committee

B. Academic Background (30%)

- Training and education credentials (e.g., residency, fellowships, or certifications).
- Relevant publications, presentations, or contributions to the field.
- Participation in previous training or courses related to spine surgery.
-

Scoring Guide:

- 5: Outstanding academic achievements with multiple publications or significant contributions.
- 4: Strong academic credentials with relevant coursework or publications.
- 3: Adequate academic background with some relevant work.
- 2: Limited academic credentials or incomplete qualifications.
- 1: No evidence of academic background related to the field.

C. Motivation and Alignment with Course Objectives (25%)

- Clarity and persuasiveness of the motivation letter.
- Alignment of the candidate's goals with the objectives of the ESJ Meet the Experts course.
- Demonstrated commitment to professional development in spine surgery.

Scoring Guide:

- 5: Highly compelling motivation with clear alignment to course goals.
- 4: Strong motivation with good alignment to course objectives.
- 3: Adequate motivation with some relevance to course objectives.
- 2: Weak motivation or limited alignment with course objectives.
- 1: Unclear or no motivation provided.

FOR APPLICATIONS:

www.rizzolaacademy.it/MTE2025

Evaluation Guidelines and Criteria for the Grant Evaluation Committee

D. Special Considerations (10%)

- Diversity of candidates (geographical location, professional background).
- Potential for the grant to significantly impact the candidate's professional development.
- First-time applicants to similar training programs.

Scoring Guide:

- 5: Candidate brings exceptional diversity or has high potential for impact.
- 4: Candidate demonstrates good potential for impact.
- 3: Moderate potential for impact or diversity.
- 2: Limited impact potential.
- 1: No significant contribution to diversity or impact.

3. Additional Guidelines

- Confidentiality: All application materials and committee discussions are confidential.
- Conflict of Interest: Committee members must disclose any conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from evaluating applications where a conflict exists.
- Final Decision: The committee's decision is final and must align with the Rizzola Academy Foundation's objectives and values.

4. Scoring Summary

Criterion	Weight (%)	Score (1-5)	Weighted Score
Professional Experience	35%		
Academic Background	30%		
Motivation and Alignment	25%		
Special Considerations	10%		
Total	100%		

European Spine Journal Meet The Expert



FOR APPLICATIONS:
www.rizzolaacademy.it/MTE2025

 **RIZZOLA**
ACADEMY