

Fellowships at Venkat Charmalaya-Institute for advanced dermatology and postgraduate training

Introduction: Venkat Charmalaya was established in 2003 by Dr Venkataram Mysore after his return from abroad. It is now a premier dermatology institute both in patient care and in education.

Venkat Charmalaya has offered three types of fellowships since 2005- initially these fellowships were totally paid (wherein students used to pay a fee for the training); In order to broad base the training, Free fellowships were offered from 2006, as part of ACSI fellowships. In order to offer structured fellowships and to help students who could not afford to pay, stipendary fellowships were started in association with Rajeev Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru, thus becoming the first private nonmedical college institute in Karnataka to offer such fellowships.

Training: The syllabus is ofcourse laid by the university- but Venkat Charmalaya has believed in offering more; that whole some training should be offered to trainees. Thus while the univeristy syllabus in medical cosmetology is limited to chemical peels, BTX, Fillers, and similar minor procedures, the syllabus followed by the institute has been expanded to include all lasers(currently the institute has five of them and also targeted phototherapy), and also dermatosurgery including basic dermatosurgery, acne surgery, vitiligo surgery including cell suspension methods. In all these procedures, hands on training is provided. In addition, training is arranged by external trainers where needed. Training is provided through power point presentations , videos, models etc. In addition, tudents have opportunity to learn advanced phototherapy, dermatopathology.

A high number of procedures of all types is performed at Venkat Charmalaya and this provides unique setting for learning. In addition, students are exposed to creative academic writing; Dr Venkataram Mysore is one of the foremost authors in India ; students are provided adequate oppurtunities for publications- which stands in good stead for future career of young doctors. Venkat Charmalaya conducts several research projects through out the year and students are involved in these projects. Our fellows have won prizes at several conferences in the past such as vitilicon and acsicon. Incentives are provided for such students.

Venkat Charmalaya believes in providing value additions in training and ensuring whole some and complete prepration of the student for the future. A student , when he/she passes out, will have adequate exposure in all aspects of medical cosmetology and lasers, and basic dermatosurgery and ready for establishing practice. Further, even though, the university does not specify any specific amount of stipend to be paid, Venkat Charmalaya believes in adequately compensating the work done by fellows. It has therefore introduced a unique feature of Venkat Charmalaya is productivity based incentive scheme provided to fellows to enhance their earnings.

It is due to these reasons that the fellowships have proved popular over the years. We receive applications through out the year-our fellowship fees range from 10,000 -1,00,000 Rs depending on the duration and type of training and often students wait for months to get an oppurtunity. The RGUHS fellowships reflect our social commitment , whereby the institute provides stipendary fellowships to students , who are exceptional and deserving .The selection is based totally on merit.