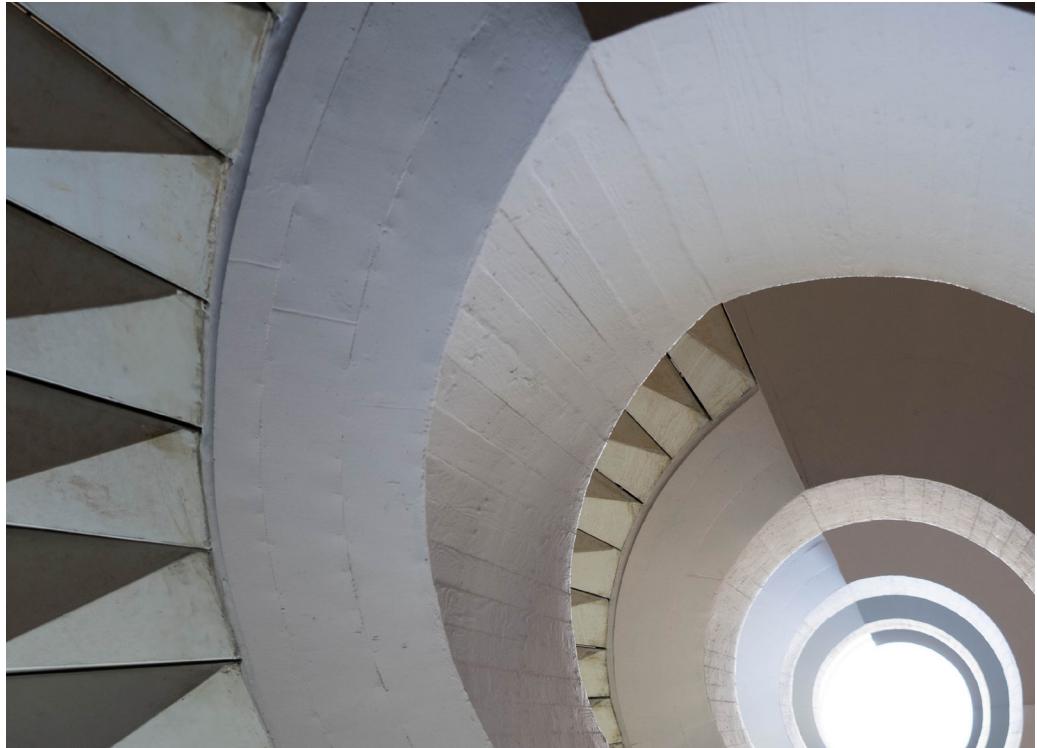




Universität
Zürich UZH

Weiterbildung



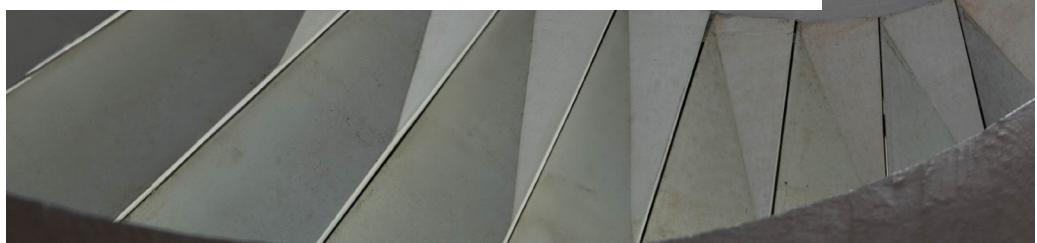
Spinal Endoscopy

Certificate of Advanced Studies

CAS 2025/2026

Faculty of Medicine

University of Zurich



CAS in Spinal Endoscopy

The Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Spinal Endoscopy at the University of Zurich is the first university-level program worldwide dedicated to structured training of endoscopic spine surgery. Developed in collaboration with leading international spine surgeons and rooted in Switzerland's pioneering role in medical technology and education, this program responds to the growing global demand for minimally invasive spinal procedures, particularly in light of an aging, multimorbid population.

Hosted by the University Spine Center Zurich at Balgrist University Hospital and powered by the EndoSpine Academy, this CAS offers a comprehensive curriculum that integrates theory, simulation-based training, cadaver labs, and international fellowships. Participants gain in-depth knowledge of endoscopic techniques and hands-on skills in the high-fidelity learning environment of the the Operating Room X. The program emphasizes safe clinical application, complication management, and evidence-based surgical decision-making.

Upon completion, graduates will not only be equipped with the skillset to start their journey in spinal endoscopy safely but will also contribute to the advancement of this emerging subspecialty, positioning themselves within a network of leading experts in the field.



Target Audience and Requirements

This CAS program is designed for board-certified orthopedic and neurosurgeons with a focus on spine surgery who wish to gain expertise in full-endoscopic spine surgery. Ideal candidates are experienced spine surgeons familiar with standard decompression and stabilization procedures, seeking structured training in spinal endoscopy. Participants should have active clinical involvement in spine care, preferably within interdisciplinary teams, and possess excellent medical English skills for international collaboration, discussion and instruction. The program appeals to forward-thinking, globally minded clinicians eager to adopt cutting-edge techniques.

Degree

Certificate of Advanced Studies UZH in Spinaler Endoskopie (15 ECTS Credits).

Venue

This CAS offers maximum flexibility. The opening and closing events, as well as the e-learning module, are conducted online. The simulator training, as well as the basic and advanced courses, take place on-site; either in Zurich or at an international course organized on behalf of the University of Zurich and the EndoSpine Academy. The locations for the three fellowships can be selected within the EndoSpine Academy individually, depending on the availability of the respective lecturers.

Costs

CAS program: CHF 15'900

The program fees cover all essential expenses related to the successful delivery of the program. Please note that travel and accommodation costs associated with the fellowship are not included and must be covered by each participant individually.

Payment in installments are possible in consultation with the course administration.

Basic / Advanced Course: CHF 2'800 per course

Course Program

Module	Content	ECTS	Exam Type
Pre-Course E-Learning	- Introduction to endoscopic spine surgery - Training on simulator	1	Assessment test, simulator test
Basic Course Mazda Farshad	- Anatomical considerations - Patient positioning - Surgical technique (lumbar spine) - Complication management - Postoperative care, rehabilitation, limits	1	Perform basic approach in wetlab under supervision
Basic Fellowship EndoSpine Academy Faculty	- 2-week fellowship - Focus: standard cases	4	Video case submission (5-10 min): Basic case
Advanced Course Mazda Farshad	- Anatomical considerations - Patient positioning - Surgical technique (cervicothoracic and advanced lumbar) - Complication management - Postoperative care, rehabilitation, limits	1	Perform advanced approach in wetlab under supervision
Advanced Fellowship EndoSpine Academy Faculty	- 2-week fellowship - Focus: advanced cases	4	Video case submission (5-10 min): Advanced case
Expert Fellowship* EndoSpine Academy Faculty	- 2-week fellowship - Focus: complex cases *can be combined with advanced fellowship	4	Video case submission (5-10): «the most complex case I experienced»

Lecturers and Key Opinion Leaders (Selection)

Mazda Farshad, MD, MPH, FRCS
Chair of Orthopedic Surgery UZH,
Surgeon-in Chief, Director University
Spine Center Zurich, Balgrist Uni-
versity Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland

Sohrab Gollogly, MD
Orthopedic Spine Surgeon speciali-
zed in minimally invasive endoscopic
and microscopic spine surgery,
Monterey Spine and Joint, Monterey,
California, USA

Jin-Sung (Luke) Kim, MD, PhD
Professor, Spine Center, Department
of Neurosurgery, Seoul St. Mary's
Hospital, College of Medicine, The
Catholic University of Korea, Seoul,
Korea

Vincent Hagel, MD
Consultant Spine Surgeon, Asklepios
Klinik Lindau, Germany

Xuexiao Ma, MD
Professor, Director of the Spinal
Department, Affiliated Hospital of
Qingdao University, Shandong, China

Facundo van Isseldyk, MD
Neurosurgeon and Endoscopic Spine
Surgeon, Hospital Privado de Rosario,
Santa Fe, Argentina

Javier Quillo-Olvera , MD
Spinal Neurosurgeon and Endoscopic
Spinal Surgeon, Associate Professor
of Clinical Neurology, Anáhuac
University, Spine Center - Neuro-
logical Surgery Department, Hospital
Angeles Centro Sur, Querétaro City,
Mexico

James J. Yue, MD
Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery, Frank
H. Netter School of Medicine, Connec-
ticut Orthopaedics, Hamden, USA

José Spirig, MD
Deputy Head University Spine Center,
Senior Consultant Spine Surgery,
Balgrist University Hospital, Zurich,
Switzerland

Christoph Laux, MD
Consultant Spine Surgery, Balgrist
University Hospital, Zurich,
Switzerland

Florian Wanivenhaus, MD
Consultant Spine Surgery, Balgrist
University Hospital, Zurich,
Switzerland

Contact and Application

Faculty

Medical Faculty of the University of Zurich
University Spine Center Zurich
Balgrist University Hospital
Represented by Mazda Farshad, MD, MPH, FRCS

Program Directors and Administration

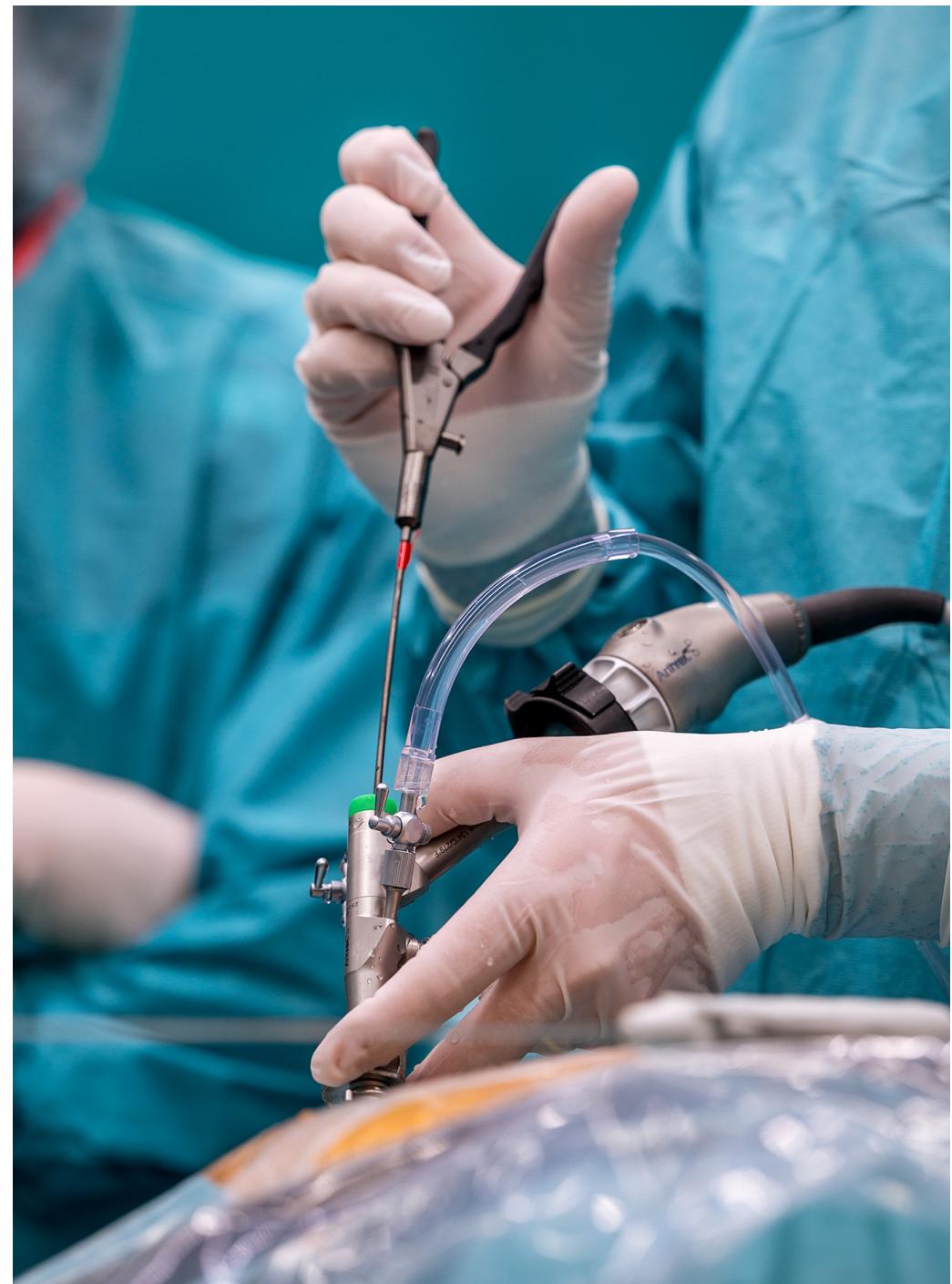
- Mazda Farshad, MD, MPH, FRCS (President)
- Patrick Freund, MD, PhD (Vice President)
- José Spirig, MD (Education)
- Florian Wanivenhaus, MD (Education)
- Christoph Laux, MD (Education)
- Cyrill Altörfer (Course Administration)

Application

Course start: December 2025
Deadline registration: November 30, 2025

Contact

Balgrist University Hospital
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E-Mail: cas-spinal-endoscopy@balgrist.ch
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Continuing Education at the University of Zurich – Where Research and Scholarship meet Professional Practice

Even if you graduated only a few years ago, your degree may have lost some of its value due to knowledge attrition and new developments in the field. Keeping your knowledge up to date with regular continuing education and lifelong learning will help you hold your own and stand out in a competitive job market.

The University of Zurich offers a wide range of continuing education opportunities, from part-time programs that can be completed while you continue working, to one-day or several-day workshops. The Master of Advanced Studies (MAS), Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) and Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) programs are generally aimed at graduates with a Master's degree and professional experience, although exceptions may be made for people with other equivalent qualifications or considerable experience. As well as subject-specific courses for those working in particular fields, UZH also offers courses on general topics that are open to all.

Continuing education at the University of Zurich is not simply a one-way process of imparting knowledge, but offers the opportunity to exchange information and views with others in the field. Through the use of examples and exercises drawn from real life, participants discover new techniques, models and practices that they can put to use in their everyday careers. By choosing a continuing education program at the University of Zurich, you are signing up for a top-level and high-quality experience at an outstanding higher education and research institution.