



**AFRICAN HUMANITIES PROGRAM**  
**in**  
**GHANA, NIGERIA, SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA, AND UGANDA**  
**2017–2018**

**APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS**

**APPLICATION INFORMATION**

**Program Objective**

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), with financial support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, administers the African Humanities Program to encourage and enable research and writing of the highest quality by African scholars.

**Application deadline**

- The application deadline for the 2017–2018 competition is **November 2, 2017**. Late applications will not be accepted.
- The required letters of recommendation supporting an application are best submitted by the application deadline (November 2, 2017) and absolutely no later than **November 16, 2017**.

**Fellowship Period**

- The fellowship period is 10–12 continuous months commencing **July 1, 2018** but no later than **January 1, 2019**.

**Fellowship Awards**

- The total funding for a **Dissertation-Completion Fellowship** is \$12,000, comprised of a stipend of \$11,000 and a book and media allowance of \$1,000.
- The total funding for an **Early Career Postdoctoral Fellowship** is \$19,000, comprised of a stipend of \$18,000 and a book and media allowance of \$1,000.
- The optional **Residential Allowance** is \$5,000, which will be paid directly to the selected institute for advanced study hosting the AHP fellowship recipient.
- Residencies are not mandatory. Once award eligibility has been confirmed, ACLS will send more information directly to the Fellow.
- A residency must be undertaken at an AHP-affiliated residential center *outside* of the country in which the Fellow maintains institutional affiliation. *No residential allowance is available for work at the Fellow's home institution or at an AHP-affiliated residential center in the Fellow's home country.*
- A list of residential sites currently available can be downloaded from the ACLS website at [www.acls.org/programs/ahp](http://www.acls.org/programs/ahp) or may be requested from [ahp@acls.org](mailto:ahp@acls.org).
- The residency must last for a continuous period of not less than *two uninterrupted months*. *No departures from the country of residency are permitted during the residency period.*

## Eligibility Criteria

### *Dissertation-Completion Applicants*

- Proposed projects must be in the humanities, defined by the study of history, language, and culture, and by qualitative approaches in research. The list of humanities disciplines includes anthropology, archaeology, studies of the fine and performing arts, history, linguistics, literature studies, studies of religion, and philosophy. Projects in social sciences such as economics, sociology, or political science, as well as in law or international relations, are *not eligible* unless they are clearly humanistic in content and focus—that is, unless they use qualitative methods and approaches, and are informed by the study of history and culture. Projects whose purpose is advocacy, the improvement of policy, work for development, or the improvement of professional practices are *not eligible*.
- Applicants must propose to complete the dissertation during the fellowship period.
- Research and writing under terms of the fellowship award must be undertaken in sub-Saharan Africa. AHP fellowships may not be used for travel outside the continent. *Travel outside the continent during the fellowship period is not permitted.*
- Applicants must be nationals of a country in sub-Saharan Africa, residing and working in Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, or Uganda, and pursuing a doctorate in one of these countries.
- Applicants must have begun to write the dissertation *before* applying and must submit a sample chapter with the application. They must be able to devote full time to dissertation-related research and writing throughout their fellowship periods.
- ***Applicants pursuing doctorates at universities in South Africa are not eligible.***

### *Postdoctoral Applicants*

- Proposed projects must be in the humanities, defined by the study of history, language, and culture, and by qualitative approaches in research. The list of humanities disciplines includes anthropology, archaeology, studies of the fine and performing arts, history, linguistics, literature studies, studies of religion, and philosophy. Projects in social sciences such as economics, sociology, or political science, as well as in law or international relations, are *not eligible* unless they are clearly humanistic in content and focus—that is, unless they use qualitative methods and approaches, and are informed by the study of history and culture. Projects whose purpose is advocacy, the improvement of policy, work for development, or the improvement of professional practices are *not eligible*.
- Applicants must propose a written scholarly product such as a book manuscript.
- Research and writing under terms of the fellowship award must be undertaken in sub-Saharan Africa. AHP fellowships may not be used for travel outside the continent. *Travel outside the continent during the fellowship period is not permitted.*
- Applicants must be nationals of a country in sub-Saharan Africa, residing and working in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda.
- At the time of the submission, applicants must have defended the dissertation and must be no more than ***eight years*** past the date of receiving the PhD degree.
- Applicants may propose either a combination of research and writing, or writing only. They must be able to devote full time to the AHP project throughout the fellowship period.

## Selection Criteria

- The intrinsic interest and substantive merit of the work proposed
- The clarity of the intellectual agenda
- The feasibility of the proposed workplan
- The record of achievement of a postdoctoral scholar and the promise of a PhD candidate
- The contribution the work is likely to make to scholarship on the continent and worldwide

## Selection Process

- Applications are evaluated by an international committee of distinguished scholars in the humanities.

- Applicants nominated for fellowships by the committee will be notified in writing by May 2018, and will be required to indicate their acceptance of the terms and conditions of the fellowship within two weeks of notification.
- Additional documentation from nominees will be required for confirmation of eligibility. Once these eligibility documents are received and verified, a list of Fellows will be announced on the ACLS website.
- Only applicants who submit a complete application form may request reviewers' comments.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Preparing the Application

- An applicant should begin preparation early! The completed application form must be received by the African Humanities Program at the American Council of Learned Societies in New York by **November 2, 2017**.
- All the application materials may be downloaded from the website at [www.acls.org/programs/ahp](http://www.acls.org/programs/ahp) or requested via email from [ahp@acls.org](mailto:ahp@acls.org).
- The application must be typed (no handwriting, please). In addition, the applicant is asked to observe specifications for font and line spacing, and to maintain the page and space limits of the original application form.

### Application Elements

An incomplete application will not be considered. The application form consists of the following numbered elements, which should be submitted in the order specified here and on the application form.

- I. Applicant Information—cover sheet: applicant eligibility checklist and administrative information**
- II. Personal History: education, research, teaching, and service** (as applicable)
- III. List of applicant's Publications** [Maximum one page, 11 pt. type, double spaced between entries]
- IV. Intellectual Autobiography** [Maximum one page, single spaced, 11 pt. type]
  1. A description of the applicant's academic career that details the ideas and experiences that have shaped and motivated the applicant's intellectual work and plans for the future.
  2. The autobiography should conclude with a separate paragraph answering the question: "What do I see myself doing five years from now?"
- V. Application Essay** [Maximum two pages, single spaced, 11 pt. type]
  1. Main Thesis: The main argument or problem guiding the proposed research and writing.
  2. Body: The research problem in more detail with a justification of the research focus and approach. What is already known about the problem and what more needs to be known?
  3. Literature and sources: The proposed topic placed in the context of existing literature and potential new sources. What will be the criteria for determining which sources are relevant? How will the project extend, modify, or challenge existing scholarship?
  4. Methods: A detailed description of the methods to be used. How will they be deployed to address the main thesis or argument of the project?
  5. Significance: An explanation of the importance of the proposed work to central issues in the discipline, to the African humanities, and to humanities scholarship in general.
  6. Workplan: The concluding section of the essay, specifying a plan of work with a *timeline for the research and/or writing during the fellowship period*. How much has the applicant already accomplished on the project and how much remains to be done? What steps are anticipated during the fellowship period? What is the expected result? The workplan must

specify the desired start and end dates for the fellowship period, ensuring that work falls within the period of the fellowship and lasts no less than 10 consecutive months.

**VI. Project Bibliography and Sources** [Maximum one page, 11 pt. type, double spaced between entries]

**VII. Sample Dissertation Chapter (for dissertation-completion applicants only)**

A dissertation-completion applicant must submit a completed dissertation chapter or a significant section of a chapter, which should be a maximum of 15 numbered pages, single spaced, 11 pt. type, with the applicant's name at the top of every page.

A dissertation-completion application that does not include a dissertation chapter is incomplete and will not be considered.

**VIII. Recommendation Forms and Letters of Recommendation**

Two recommendations are required of each applicant. A recommendation consists of a *Recommendation Form* (to be downloaded and sent to the recommender by the applicant) and a *Letter of Recommendation* (to be composed by the recommender on an official letterhead and signed).

- An applicant should send the form to his/her recommenders early, so that there is enough time to complete and return them.
- The *Recommendation Form* is provided as a separate file at [www.acls.org/programs/ahp/](http://www.acls.org/programs/ahp/). The applicant should complete the top section of the form and send it to the recommender.
- Each recommender should send the completed form along with the signed letter of support back to the applicant. Both the recommendation form and the letter should be saved using your surname and given name(s) before being scanned and saved as .pdf files.
- For a dissertation-completion applicant, one letter must be from the dissertation supervisor and must assess the prospects for completion of the dissertation during the fellowship period.
- An applicant should send his/her nominated recommenders drafts of his/her project bibliography and application essay.
- The applicant should submit the recommendation documents together with the completed application form to ACLS by the deadline, November 2, 2017.
- While an applicant is responsible for making sure that the completed application has two appropriate recommendations, **there must be no delay in sending all other parts of the application by the November 2 deadline**, regardless of whether or not recommenders have sent the recommendation letters. Late letters of recommendation should be forwarded by the applicant to ACLS as soon as possible, in no case later than **November 16, 2017**.

### **Submitting the Completed Application Documents**

An applicant is asked to follow these instructions carefully. Failure to do so may render an application late, incomplete, or otherwise ineligible for inclusion in the fellowship competition.

#### ***Electronic Submission (preferred method of submission)***

1. The application form must be signed and dated, or will it be considered incomplete.
2. For ease of identification, the completed application form must be saved using your name in the following format: Surname, Given Name(s).doc/docx. **Please note ACLS can only accept files sent in Word (.doc or .docx).**
3. For ease of identification, letters of support and recommendation forms should also be saved using your surname and given name(s) before being scanned and saved as .pdf files
4. An application submitted electronically should be sent to [ahp@acsls.org](mailto:ahp@acsls.org), with all application materials included as attachments to one single email. If the files are too large to send in one

email, the applicant must create a series of smaller numbered files following the same file name format and send them in separate emails, making sure to note the total number of files transmitted.

5. The subject line of the email should include the applicant's surname and the phrase "AHP application." The body of the email should indicate the number of files attached.
6. Application materials should be submitted only **once**, unless ACLS requests that an applicant resubmit.
7. Once an application has been submitted, "updated" or "revised" versions of the application will not be accepted.
8. Special note to Yahoo email account holders: if you rely on a Yahoo email account you should note that email from ACLS is routinely routed into the spam folder by the Yahoo server and therefore you should check spam folders regularly for ACLS emails. A Yahoo email user may want to consider using an alternative email account for ACLS correspondence, such as a university email account, gmail, hotmail, or other email server.

If submission by email is not possible, please contact [ahp@acsls.org](mailto:ahp@acsls.org) for information on how to send applications via air mail or courier service.

**IMPORTANT:** A reply confirming receipt of application materials will be sent within ten days. However, if a reply has not been received *after* ten days, an applicant should send a separate email to [ahp@acsls.org](mailto:ahp@acsls.org) requesting confirmation that the application documents have been received and can be opened.

**Application materials must be in the AHP mailbox ([ahp@acsls.org](mailto:ahp@acsls.org)) by November 2, 2017.**