



American Council of Learned Societies African Humanities Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS—RESIDENCIES AT AFRICAN CENTERS FOR ADVANCED STUDY

- **What is the purpose of an AHP residency?**

From its inception, the African Humanities Program has offered residencies to current year Fellows, for preparation of manuscripts for which they received AHP fellowships.

From September 2017, residential opportunities will be open to all AHP Fellows from all years. Priority will be given to current year Fellows, but those from prior years will be accommodated as places become available. Proposals for manuscripts based on AHP fellowships, or on closely related topics, are preferred.

Fellows in residence may participate, of course, in the academic life of the center or university associated with the center, for example, by attending seminars and giving presentations. However, centers may not require Fellows to teach or lecture, nor require them to write on the center's themes, if different from the project proposed by the AHP Fellow for the residency.

- **How are AHP residences arranged?**

Once the list of the year's available residential centers has been confirmed, it is sent to Fellows, who select their top three choices of center and timeframe (for timeframe, see **How long do residencies last?** below). *We encourage Fellows to make choices carefully, based on academic profiles of centers rather than on the country in which they are located.*

Directors of residential centers receive the names of Fellows who express interest in their centers. They identify those who would benefit from the center's resources such as area specialties, book and media holdings, specialized mentors, and opportunities for Fellows to attend seminars, lectures, or colloquia.

AHP assigns Fellows to centers based both on Fellows' preferences and centers' recommendations. Every effort is made to grant each Fellow his or her first choice. If one center is in particular demand, not all who wish to go there are able to do so. Priority in placements goes to the current year cohort of AHP Fellows.

After AHP sends the lists of assigned Fellows to the center directors, each director, at his or her discretion, offers contracts of residency to the Fellows. Once a Fellow accepts a contract, all further arrangements are made between the Fellow and the center. The AHP Associate Directors and AHP staff at the American Council of Learned Societies in New York receive copies of contracts. Fellows who wish to extend their residential stays should direct their requests to center directors, who will grant such requests based on the availability of funds and space.

- **Are residencies mandatory?**

No, they are not. They are an added benefit offered to AHP Fellows. Residencies provide a conducive atmosphere of 2-3 months for writing.

- **What costs do residential stipends cover? What costs must Fellows pay?**

AHP pays residential allowances to the centers on behalf of Fellows. The centers use the funds for round-trip transportation from Fellows' homes to the centers, for lodging and workspaces, and for health insurance during the residency period.

No residential funds are paid directly to the Fellow, who must pay out of pocket for all other costs, such as food, local transport, and daily necessities.

It is the responsibility of the Fellow to make visa arrangements before the beginning of the residency period.

- **Where do residencies take place?**

Fellows must choose from one of the centers with which AHP has a signed Memorandum of Understanding. The list of eligible centers is sent to Fellows once it has been confirmed. **Fellows must choose residential centers outside the countries in which they live and work.**

AHP does not fund residencies at centers that do not appear on the list. However, a Fellow is welcome to take up residency at any center for advanced study in sub-Saharan Africa without an AHP residential allowance.

- **What kinds of living situations can Fellows expect while in residence?**

Each center offers different accommodations. Some offer home stays with local families, others rent apartments for Fellows, and still others offer rooms in campus dormitories. In addition to housing, all Fellows will be provided with a study area and a computer with an Internet connection, as well as access to the center's libraries and other research facilities.

Housing is for Fellows only; Fellows may not bring family members with them to residential sites.

- **How long do residencies last?**

A residency must be taken for a period of at least two consecutive months. Most residencies last three months. Funds for residencies are fixed and the usual maximum is three months. However, Fellows are permitted to request extensions of stay from center directors, who will grant it based on funds and space available.

A Fellow who undertakes an AHP residency may not leave the residential center during the agreed-upon period. If any scheduling conflicts (such as conferences) arise before the beginning of the residency, it is the Fellow's responsibility to notify the center director and to reschedule the residency to make possible a stay of two consecutive months.

Fellows will be funded by AHP for only one residential stay at one approved center per academic year.

AHP offers Fellows the choice of selecting residencies in one of two timeframes during the academic year: August through December, or February through June (please refer to the center descriptions for exact dates).

The timeline for residencies in 2017-2018:

January 2017	Residency information sent to prior-year Fellows
February 28, 2017	Deadline for prior-year Fellows to apply for residencies
April-June, 2017	2017-18 cohort of Fellows confirmed and sent residency information
July 2017	Residential placements confirmed
August-December, 2017	First Residency rotation
January-June, 2018	Second Residency rotation
May-June, 2018	Residency questionnaire sent to Fellows