Sample Application

What follows is a sample of an application for the African Humanities Program Postdoctoral Fellowship. It is for informational purposes only.

To apply for this fellowship, you must submit your application electronically, using the Online Fellowship Application (OFA) system.
Welcome to the online application for the African Humanities Program (AHP) - Postdoctoral Fellowships.

We invite applications for postdoctoral fellowships from scholars who are within eight years of receiving the PhD degree, who are citizens of Sub-Saharan African countries, and who are currently working at universities in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda. Women are especially encouraged to apply.

This extraordinary competition will extend for one year the fellowship program that began in 2008-09 and that had been scheduled to conclude in 2020-21. Funds for the extension became available due to the cancelation of in-person activities during the Covid pandemic.

The 2021-22 AHP competition will replicate previous ones in almost every respect. The eligibility criteria remain the same – awards will go to African scholars, living and working on the continent, pursuing basic research in the humanities, willing to take two semesters leave from all other employment to devote full energy to the project proposed. Applications will be received through the ACLS Online Fellowship and Grant (OFA) Administration system, as they have been in previous years. ACLS will distribute monetary stipends. No further AHP fellowship competitions are planned.

All eligible African scholars, especially women and staff at regional universities, are encouraged to apply!

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The African Humanities Association has already assumed responsibility for breakthrough initiatives of the AHP such as the book publications of the African Humanities Series and the program of residential opportunities for research and writing.

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- To strengthen the capacity of early career researchers and faculty at African universities
- To advance the humanities by establishing networks for scholarly communication across Africa and with Africanists worldwide

Fellowship stipends free recipients from teaching and other duties for a full academic year to concentrate on scholarly work -- for revising the dissertation for publication or for a new major research project. Written products should aim to make significant contributions to humanistic knowledge.

Fellows are encouraged to take advantage of residential stays at African institutes for advanced study, as well as Manuscript Development Workshops, in preparation for submission of manuscripts to the African Humanities Series.

Each fellow may request a residential stay at an African institute affiliated with AHP. Residencies have proved extremely productive, granting fellows time and space to concentrate on writing and introduce them to new academic communities. Because residencies must be taken at a location outside the home country, they foster international communication. Currently AHP Fellows may take residencies at one of seven institutes from South Africa to Senegal, Ghana to Tanzania.

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The works produced by AHP fellows will speak to succeeding generations of humanist scholars, to leading figures in culture and politics, and to the broad interested public. Books published by the African Humanities Series will stand as the AHP’s enduring legacy.

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The fellowship period is 10–12 continuous months commencing July 1, 2022 but no later than January 1, 2023.
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The total funding for an Early Career Postdoctoral Fellowship is $20,000, comprised of a stipend of $19,000 and a book and media allowance of $1,000.

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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.

A list of residential sites currently available may be downloaded from the ACLS website or may be requested from ahp@aclsonline.org.

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4. Applicants must be nationals of a country in sub-Saharan Africa, residing and working in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda.

5. At the time of the submission, an applicant must have defended the dissertation and must be no more than eight years past the date of receiving the PhD degree (PhD must be conferred after January 1, 2013).

6. 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 scholar's record of achievement
- 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 2022 and will be required to accept the terms and conditions of the fellowship within two weeks of notification.

Additional documentation from nominees will be required for confirmation of eligibility. Once the required eligibility documents are received and verified, a list of Fellows will be announced on the ACLS website.

Only applicants who submit a complete application dossier may request reviewers' comments.

**APPLICATION ELEMENTS**
An incomplete application will not be considered. The application consists of the following elements, all of which should be submitted via the online portal.

I. Applicant Information

II. Professional History: education, research, teaching, and service (as applicable)

III. Documents: to be uploaded to the portal:

- List of Applicant's Publications [Maximum one page, 11 pt. type, double spaced between entries]
- Intellectual Autobiography [Maximum one page, single spaced, 11 pt. type] 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 future plans. The autobiography should conclude with a separate paragraph answering the question: “What do I see myself doing five years from now?”
- Application Essay [Maximum two pages, single spaced, 11 pt. type]

Main Thesis: The main argument or problem guiding the proposed research and writing.

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?

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?

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? The applicant should pair every research question with a method that is designed to answer the question.

Significance: An explanation of the importance of the proposed work to central issues in the discipline, in the African humanities, and in humanities scholarship in general.
Workplan: The concluding section of the essay, should present 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.

The essay may include up to 2 additional pages of images, musical scores, or other similar supporting nontextual materials [Optional]

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INSTRUCTIONS TO THE APPLICANT

Before beginning your application, you will be asked questions designed to determine preliminary eligibility for this program. Once you have answered the basic eligibility questions, please read all instructions, including those in the REFERENCE LETTERS and DOCUMENTS UPLOAD sections, before beginning to fill out the application form. Completed applications must be submitted online no later than 9 PM GMT, December 3, 2021. Notifications will be sent by May 2022.

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6. We strongly urge you to print out and save a copy of the final version of your SUBMITTED application. Your print copy should include your uploaded documents. You can print your application until January 15, 2022.

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Good luck with your application!
ELIGIBILITY CHECK

1. Are you a citizen of a sub-Saharan African country and do you reside in one of the participating countries? (Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda) [If applicable, do you have the required permit to reside/study/work in one of the participating countries?]
   - Yes
   - No

2. Do you currently maintain affiliation at an institution in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda, and will you continue to do so for the duration of the proposed AHP fellowship period?
   - Yes
   - No

3. Do you propose to stay on the African continent for the duration of the proposed AHP fellowship period?
   - Yes
   - No

4. Does your proposed workplan span at least ten consecutive months between July 1, 2022 and December 31, 2023?
   - Yes
   - No

5. Will you have your Ph.D. degree officially conferred by December 3, 2021?
   - Yes
   - No

6. Was your Ph.D. degree conferred after January 1, 2013?
   - Yes
   - No

7. Do you propose a written scholarly work (such as a book or series of articles) as the product of your fellowship?
   - Yes
   - No
You have passed our preliminary eligibility screening; please click the button below to proceed to the instructions.
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<tr>
<th>Applicant's Surname:</th>
<th>Applicant's Given Name and Other Names:</th>
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<td>Doe</td>
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<th>Applicant's Title:</th>
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The record search feature works for public ORCID records only. ([click here](https://ahp.acls.org/programs/ahp/contact/?sid=mJVrAKvTs4pr8xbTbcxJUABmuMr34RglaYLX!!GXT@yS5mXbUCkdlBGntFE5Y17KppXV3Qffu7AeIhx…)) to search ORCID.

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<th>Citizenship:</th>
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<th>Email:</th>
<th>Alternative Email: (if any)</th>
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<td><a href="mailto:johndoe@aol.com">johndoe@aol.com</a></td>
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**Name of Ph.D.-Granting Institution:**
*(if your institution is not listed below please type in the name)*

Type a few characters to search for inst:  

https://ahp.acls.org/programs/ahp/contact/?sid=mJVrAKvTs4pr8xbTbcxJUABmuMr34RglaYLX!!GXT@yS5mXbUCkdlBGntFE5Y17KppXV3Qffu7AeIhx…  1/3
Current Employment

Position: 

Institution Name: 

(If your institution is not listed below please type in the name)

Type a few characters to search for ins:

Department: 

Home Address

Address: 

City: 

State/Province: 

Postal Code: 

Country: 

Office Address

Address: 

City: 

State/Province: 

Select One
Postal Code:  

Country:  

Preferred Address
Which is your preferred mailing address?

Select  

SAVE  SAVE AND CONTINUE
PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Title of Dissertation:

Date (Please give the date the Ph.D. was officially granted by the University):

MM/YY

Higher Education

Name of Institution:

Location:

Country

Field of Study:

Dates of Enrollment:

Type of Degree:

Year Conferred:

YYYY

List research projects you have undertaken

Leave blank any of the following items that do not apply to you.

Date: Title of Project:

MM/DD.

Project Objective:

(i.e., report, article, paper, book, etc.)

Funder:
Teaching Experience

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Academic Service

List administrative positions, committee memberships, and substantive editing of publications.

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Non-academic Positions

List any positions or consultancies in government, NGOs, or the private sector.

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<th>Non-academic Position</th>
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Experience outside the country of residence (give dates): Include study, research, teaching, consulting, and employment.

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<th>Experience Outside Country of Residence</th>
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PROJECT

Applicant's Major Discipline: 
Ancillary Discipline: (if any)

Descriptive Project Title: (up to 15 words)

Abstract: (Please provide a summary of your proposal, 150 words or fewer, in the space provided.)

Where do you plan to conduct the project for which you are applying?

What are the start and end dates of your proposed 10 to 12 month AHP fellowship period?

Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY): 
End Date (MM/DD/YYYY):

How did you learn about this competition?

☐ From a colleague or advisor at my institution
☐ From a colleague or advisor at a different institution
☐ I attended an AHP meeting (If so, please note which one below)
☐ From a colleague or advisor who attended an AHP meeting (If so, please note which one below)
☐ Online advertisement (please specify where)

☐ Email from ACLS

☐ Other group email or listserv (If so, please note which ones below)

☐ ACLS Website

☐ Other website (please specify where)

☐ Former AHP Fellow(s)

☐ Social media (e.g. AHP Facebook page) (If so, please note which ones below)

☐ From an internet search

☐ AHP Dissertation Fellowship

☐ Academic Conference or Meeting (If so, please note which ones below)

☐ Other (please describe below)
DOCUMENTS UPLOAD

List of Applicant’s Publications
Publications listed should be identified by title (with descriptive title in parenthesis, if available), journal or publisher, date, and number of pages.

One-page maximum, 11 point type. Please double space between entries.

NOT UPLOADED

Intellectual Autobiography
A description of your academic career, detailing the ideas and experiences that have shaped and motivated your intellectual work and your plans for the future. In a separate paragraph, please answer the question, “What do I see myself doing five years from now?”

One-page maximum, single-spaced, 11 point type

NOT UPLOADED

Application Essay
Please write an essay describing your project in detail. Further suggestions are provided in the Instructions section.

Maximum two pages, single-spaced, 11 point type

NOT UPLOADED

Project Bibliography and Sources
Provide a list of the most significant primary and secondary sources, along with any other source materials (artifacts, interviews, etc.), which apply to the proposed project.

One-page maximum, 11 point type. Please double space between entries.
NOT UPLOADED
REFERENCES

PLEASE NOTE: You MUST ENTER THE NAMES OF YOUR REFEREES on this page BEFORE they can log in to use the online references system. Please do not ask them to access the system until you have done this. Once you have entered the information and clicked the 'send email' button, an email will be automatically generated with appropriate instructions to the referee.

Two letters of reference are required. We suggest that you secure as referees scholars competent to judge both the present research proposal and your past scholarship; ideally, you should select referees who are not affiliated with your own institution.

Letters of reference must be submitted online. It is your responsibility to convey information about your proposal to your referees. After your referees have agreed to write on your behalf:

- Tell your referees to expect an email from ACLS.
- Make absolutely certain you have the correct email address for each referee.
- Enter each referee's name and email address by clicking on the 'Add Referee' link at the bottom of this page. Please capitalize the name properly.
- Once you have entered the information and clicked the 'send email' button, an email will be automatically generated with appropriate instructions to the referee (you will not receive a copy of this email).
- It is not necessary to enter both referees at the same time. You can return to this screen at any time to enter referees.
- Your referees will not receive an email to begin this process until you have entered the information and clicked the 'send email' button.

No more than two letters of reference will be accepted.

- Enter only two referees. It is possible to enter additional referees, but you should do this only if you learn that a referee is unable to complete the promised letter.
The first two letters submitted will be the letters on file in support of your application. Once two letters have been submitted, another referee attempting to submit a letter for you will be prevented from doing so. Be careful not to put anyone in this situation.

If you learn that your referee did not receive an email with instructions, check the email address and then enter the information again using the 'Add Referee' link below to have the email sent again. (You will not be able to enter the information again, however, if the referee has begun your letter)

It is the responsibility of the applicant to confirm with recommenders that letters have been submitted to the ACLS portal before the deadline.

For your information, the online reference process requests referees to comment on the applicant as a scholar and professional and on the specific proposal to ACLS. Referees are asked to evaluate the scholar’s ability to conduct and complete the project proposed, as well as the importance of this project within the general and specific field(s) to which it relates.

Letters of reference are due by December 10, 2021. It is your responsibility to check online to see whether letters have been submitted. Missing letters of recommendation seriously disadvantage an applicant’s chance for a fellowship. Therefore, applicants should request letters from recommenders as early in the process as possible making sure the recommender has sufficient knowledge about the project to comment on it. The system will continue to accept letters after the deadline and will add them to your application at the earliest possible time, though we cannot guarantee that they will accompany your application through our entire review process.

No recommenders entered. Click the 'Add Recommender' button to request a letter.
SUBMIT APPLICATION

Before submitting your application, make sure you have

- answered all appropriate questions
- completed and saved all screens
- uploaded successfully your proposal and accompanying documents

We suggest that you view and/or print your application one last time before submitting it since no revisions are allowed after submission. Your view/print copy should include your uploaded documents. If it does not, click the HELP link above for assistance.

*Please note that, by the application deadline, you must complete the REFERENCES section in addition to submitting your application.

An application that is submitted, but is not complete, will not be considered.
An application that is complete, but is not submitted, will not be considered.

I have completed the application, and would like to submit it for ACLS consideration.

SUBMIT APPLICATION