



APN and NEXT GEN

FELLOWSHIP AWARDS APPLICATION GUIDEBOOK

2025 EDITION



2025 APN and Next Gen Fellowship Awards Application Guidebook

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 11:59 PM ET on Friday, January 31, 2025

Applications must be submitted using the [Online Application Portal](#).

Email apn@ssrc.org or nextgenafrica@ssrc.org for questions.

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About APN and Next Gen

The African Peacebuilding Network (APN) and Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa (Next Gen) is an integrated program of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), New York. [APN](#) supports African scholars and practitioners based in the continent's institutions of higher education and regional and national organizations to produce high-quality and globally visible research on African peacebuilding. In addition, it promotes the integration of research-based knowledge into policy and practical actions aimed towards promoting and deepening sustainable peace in conflict-affected and post-conflict African societies. [Next Gen](#) seeks to strengthen higher education in African countries by offering a sequence of fellowships and training opportunities to PhD students to enable them to undertake research and progress steadily toward the completion of their doctorate degrees. In this way, the program supports the emergence of the next generation of African PhD holders, skilled professionals, and university faculty. Apart from facilitating networking between scholars across diverse African countries, regions, generations, and disciplines, the APN and Next Gen program emphasizes the importance of building partnerships with institutions of higher education in countries within the continent based on mutual respect and the true spirit of collegial exchange and support. APN and Next Gen complement each other by working on similar themes in relation to Africa and have granted over 700 fellowship awards to African scholars based in the continent since 2012. The APN and Next Gen Program is funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY).

2025 APN and Next Gen Fellowship Awards

62 fellowships will be awarded in the 2025 APN and Next Gen Fellowship Competition. These fellowship awards are open to applicants through the five (5) award types listed below:

- 20 African Peacebuilding Network Individual Research Fellowships - up to US\$15,000 each
- 1 African Peacebuilding Network Research Policy Fellowship - up to US\$12,000 each
- 12 Next Gen Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship - up to US\$3,000 each
- 17 Next Gen Doctoral Dissertation Research Development Fellowship - up to US\$15,000 each
- 12 Next Gen Doctoral Dissertation Completion Development Fellowship - up to US\$10,000 each

Award Types

Each of the five (5) APN and Next Gen fellowships offered in 2025 serves a different type and stage of scholarship, either for individuals currently working towards their doctoral dissertation or in the early stages of their academic careers. The APN and Next Gen selection committees will only consider applications eligible for the respective award the applicant has applied for. **Applications will not be reallocated to the fellowship award type for which they are best suited. Therefore, it is critical that individuals understand the eligibility criteria and financial provisions of each fellowship so as to apply for the appropriate award based on their qualifications and eligibility.**

Please review each description of the ideal candidate for the five types of fellowships, as well as the eligibility criteria, selection process, and application requirements sections of each respective award to ensure that you have selected the appropriate award to apply for.

African Peacebuilding Network Individual Research Fellowship

The [APN Individual Research Fellowship \(IRF\)](#) supports early to mid-career scholars or practitioners for up to nine months of field-based research that contributes to knowledge production and policies shaping peacebuilding in Africa.

African Peacebuilding Network Research Policy Fellowship

The [APN Research Policy Fellowship \(RPF\)](#) supports former APN IRF Fellows (who received awards no earlier than June 2020) for up to six months of research on a specific policy area and affiliation with a policy institution or practitioner organization to gain firsthand knowledge and experience of the daily activities and operations of policy or practitioner organizations.

Next Gen Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship

The [Next Gen Proposal Fellowship](#) supports African doctoral students in a university in **Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda** to support the development of their dissertation proposals, support costs related to pre-fieldwork surveys, literature review, and dissertation proposal writing over six (6) months.

Next Gen Doctoral Dissertation Research Development Fellowship

The [Next Gen Research Fellowship](#) supports African doctoral students in a university in **Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda** to conduct fieldwork, collect and analyze data, and work on their literature review and dissertation writing over twelve (12) months.

Next Gen Doctoral Dissertation Completion Development Fellowship

The [Next Gen Completion Fellowship](#) supports African doctoral students in a university in **Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda** to take a one-year leave to focus on data analysis and scholarly writing, complete their doctoral dissertations, and meet their degree requirements.

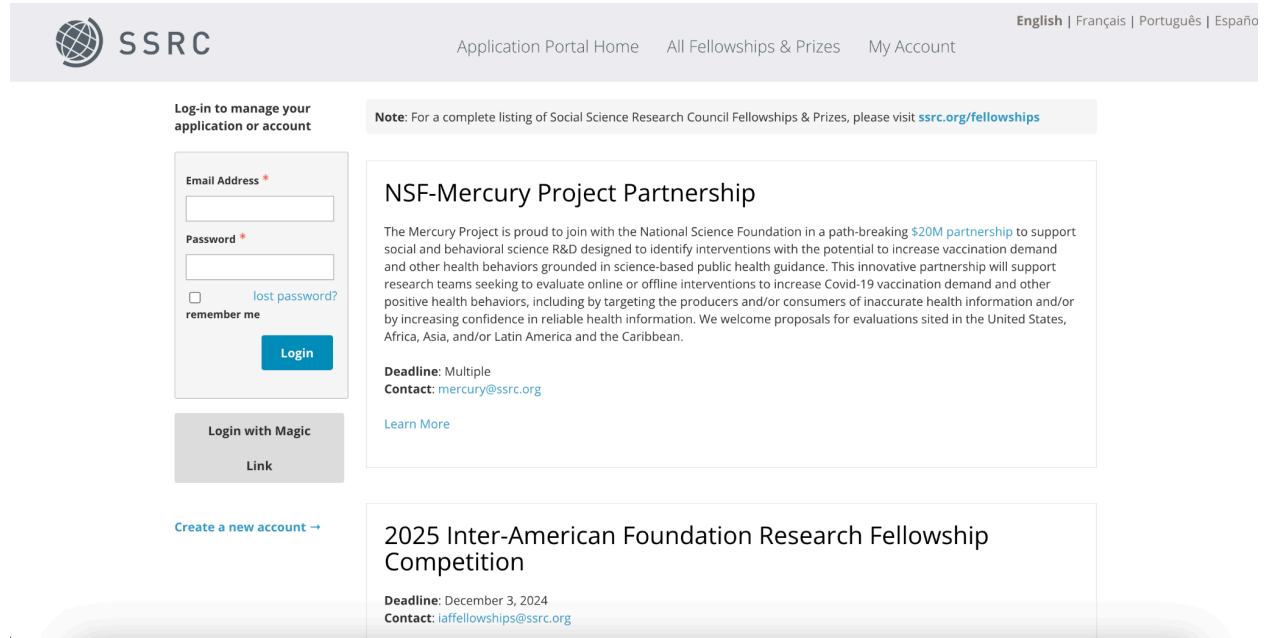
Application and Selection Timeline

October 7, 2024	Call for Applications Launch
January 31, 2025	Application Deadline
February 5, 2025	Reference Letters Deadline
February - March 2025	Eligibility Review
March 2025	Applicants notified of eligibility/non-eligibility Eligible applicants move to External Review
April 2025	Applicants notified of the outcome of External Review Selection Committee Review Fellowship Nominees Notified
May 2025	Fellowship Award Nominees are invited to submit relevant documents, proposed Budgets and Timelines
June 2025	Fellowship Awards Finalized
July 2025	Commencement of Fellowship

Online Application Portal

All applications must be uploaded through the SSRC's [Online Application Portal](#).

Please click this [link](#) to either create an account or access an existing one.



The screenshot shows the SSRC Online Application Portal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the SSRC logo, links to 'Application Portal Home', 'All Fellowships & Prizes', and 'My Account', and language options: 'English | Français | Português | Español'. Below the navigation bar, there is a login section on the left with fields for 'Email Address' and 'Password', a 'Login' button, and a 'Login with Magic Link' button. To the right of the login section, there is a 'Note' about fellowships and prizes, and two featured announcements: 'NSF-Mercury Project Partnership' and '2025 Inter-American Foundation Research Fellowship Competition'. The 'NSF-Mercury Project Partnership' announcement includes a description of the partnership, a deadline, and contact information. The '2025 Inter-American Foundation Research Fellowship Competition' announcement includes a deadline and contact information.

How to create an account

1. Click "create a new account" at the bottom of the left-hand side of the screen.
2. Enter the requested information, including all of the prompts marked with red asterisks.
3. Once you have completed all the information, click "register."

How to log back into an existing account and revisit the application

You may save your application and come back at a later time to continue working on it. To log into your account and continue the application:

1. Click "Login with Magic Link" at the bottom of the left-hand side of the screen.
2. Enter the email address registered with your existing account.
3. Access your email and look for an email from Open Water with a link, which will grant you access to your account.

4. Once in the online portal, click “My Applications” on the left-hand side list of options and find the 2025 APN and Next Gen application you have previously started.
5. After updating your 2025 APN and Next Gen application with new information, please click “save” at the bottom of the page to ensure your application has been updated.

Please note: If the Magic Link is not redirecting you to your account and showing an error page instead, copy the link directly from your email into the search bar of your search engine. Additionally, click this [link](#) again to be directed to the portal’s opening page, where you should now be logged into your account.

How to proceed through the Online Application

You must complete each section of the application marked with a red asterisk (*) before you can submit your entire application. The website will instruct or re-direct the applicant to fields that must be completed to successfully submit the application.

Click “save” at the bottom of each page before exiting the page so you may return at a later time or proceed with your application in another section.

Please note: if you are unable to proceed to the next page after clicking “next,” review the top right-hand corner of your browser for error messages notifying you of any issues.

How to successfully submit an application

1. To submit your application, click “submit” on the final page of the form.
2. Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an email confirming your application has been successfully submitted.
3. If you do not receive the confirmation email, reach out to apn@ssrc.org or nextgenafrica@ssrc.org to have an APN and Next Gen team member confirm the status of your application.

African Peacebuilding Network Individual Research Fellowship (APN IRF)

APN IRF Eligibility Requirements

Nationality and Residence

All applicants must be African citizens currently residing in an African country.

Institutional Affiliation and Title

Academics

Academic applicants must hold full-time faculty or research positions in African universities or research organizations.

Practitioners

Applicants who are policy analysts and practitioners must be based in Africa at a regional or sub-regional African institution, including government or non-governmental agencies, media, or civil society organizations.

Thematic Priorities

Prospective APN IRF applicants are encouraged to submit applications covering a range of issues related to peacebuilding, security, and development in conflict-affected contexts, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate, Environment, and Resources
 - Climate change, energy transitions, conflict, and peace
 - Human mobilities, insecurities, and peace
 - Hydropolitics, conflict, and peace
 - Natural resource conflict: community, national, and regional dimensions
- Justice, Peace, and Regional/International Stakeholders
 - Peace education and African futures
 - Regional Economic Communities (RECs), regionalism, peace, and security
 - Transitional justice, reconciliation, and peace

- UN-AU-EU-REC partnerships, peace operations, funding, security, and peacebuilding architectures
- Nationalism, Identity, Religion, and Culture
 - Access to justice, diversity, and citizenship
 - Religion and peace
 - State-building, nation-building, identities and citizenship
 - Women, youth, and peacebuilding
- State and Non-state Stakeholders, Governance, and Conflict
 - African Peacebuilding Interventions: military and non-military norms and practices
 - Dimensions of conflict and security: regional, trans-border, national, and interpersonal
 - Diseases, politics, and peace
 - Geopolitics and histories of conflict, conflict mediation, and peace
 - Political transitions, elections, governance, and development
 - Prevention of mass atrocities
 - Resilience, conflict prevention, and transformation
 - Small arms and light weapons (SALW), transnational crime, violent extremism, war, displacement, and migration
 - Social exclusion, economic marginalization, and the social dynamics of conflict and peace
 - Structural causes, drivers, types, actors, and trajectories of violent conflict
 - The economic and financial dimensions of peace support operations and post-conflict reconstruction
- Technology, Media, and Arts
 - AI and the fourth industrial revolution: risks to and opportunities for peacebuilding
 - Cultures, media, and art(s) of peace
 - Digital media, technology, war and peace
 - Generative AI and the ethics of knowledge production and practice of peacebuilding
 - Social media, community, advocacy, and peacebuilding
 - Theater, music, and peace

Academic Qualifications and Work Experience

Academics

Academic applicants must hold a PhD at the time of application, obtained no earlier than January 2015. Applicants who have not been awarded their PhDs by June 2025 will not have their applications considered eligible.

Practitioners

Practitioner and policy analyst applicants must have a master's degree obtained before January 2020, with at least five years of proven full-time research and work experience in peacebuilding-related activities on the continent.

Location for the duration of the award

Academics

Academic applicants must hold full-time faculty positions as a lecturer or researcher at a university or research organization in Africa.

Policy Analysts and Practitioners

Applicants who are policy analysts and practitioners must be based in Africa at a regional or sub-regional institution, a government agency, or a nongovernmental, media, or civil society organization.

Language

Application material must be submitted in English. In cases where academic degrees or reference letters are in a language other than English, a certified version of the translation must be uploaded with the degree or reference letter in a collated, single document.

APN IRF Application Guidelines

Selection Process

Eligibility Review

Only applications submitted by **January 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST** through the application portal will be considered. Two references must be submitted by February 5th, 2025, 11:59 pm EST through the application portal to have the application considered. If you are having trouble submitting your application, please review the [“Application Portal section of the guidebook”](#) or send an email to apn@ssrc.org if issues persist.

All applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria described in the section “APN IRF Eligibility Requirements” will be screened out before their application is considered.

Applications with incomplete sections, including those that do not meet the specific criteria for responses to questions, incomplete or inadequate document uploads, or those missing references, will not be considered.

Criteria

Fellowship award decisions are typically made on the basis of the following criteria:

- The originality and innovation of the project to contribute new knowledge to the field.
- Quality and alignment of all facets of the research methods, tools, and modes of inquiry utilized.
- The relevance of the research to ongoing scholarly discourse.
- Feasibility to complete the research within the award timeline.

Each year, we receive an incredible pool of eligible applications for fellowship awards. The competition is rigorous, and not being selected for an award is by no means an indication of a lack of merit.

APN IRF Application Requirements

Overview of Requirements

Please review this list of requirements for your application, which must all be submitted through the Online Application Portal:

- Online Application Form
- Research Proposal with a complete bibliography
- Titles of potential publication(s)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Proposed Research Timeline
- Proposed Research Budget
- Two Reference Letters
- Language Evaluation(s) (if required)

Online Application Form

All applications must be uploaded through the SSRC's [Online Application Portal](#).

Refer to the "[Application Portal section of the guidebook](#)" for information on creating an account or accessing an existing application.

Important information to keep in mind when completing your application

1. You will not be able to submit your application after the deadline of **January 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST**.
2. What you type into the form is exactly what will be seen by our reviewers. Therefore, please fill out the form carefully, and pay attention to spelling, case (do not use all caps), punctuation, and grammar.
3. Text boxes will hold only a limited amount of text. Where longer answers are permitted, the number of available words will normally be indicated. We suggest that you type rather than paste your response. If you paste your response, be sure your word count does not exceed the limit: excess text may appear on the screen but will not print and will not be visible to reviewers. Examine your printed application to be sure your response is complete.

4. Begin typing all answers on the extreme left-hand side of the response area or box. Do not leave a space or indent at the beginning of your answer.

Academic / Background Information Section

The Academic/Background Information section should reflect the experiences, qualifications, and present affiliations of the applicant in the following sections:

- Educational History
- Published Work
- Employment History
- Language Self-Evaluation (optional)
- Biography and Future Plans

HIGHLY IMPORTANT Applicants must select the correct fellowship award type for which they are applying, either as an academic or practitioner. **Please review the [“APN IRF Eligibility Requirements”](#) for a description of the academic and practitioner categories of applicants.** If you incorrectly select a type of fellowship award you are not eligible for, your application will not be considered.

Project Information Section

Please proceed through the following sections by including the relevant requested details on your proposed project:

- Title of Project
- Summary of Project
- Estimated amount of research you expect to complete within a period of nine months
- Place(s) in which you will undertake the project for which you are applying
- Keywords

Please proceed through the following sections by reflecting on the relevance of your proposed research:

- Contribution of research to relevant policies and practices
- Policy Relevance
- Expectations for the Fellowship Period

- Publications that will likely emerge from your research findings following the project

Document Upload Section

Instructions for Uploading Your Documents

Your proposal and bibliography **MUST** be collated and submitted together as a single PDF file, while your CV, Proposed Research Timeline, and Proposed Research Budget must each be submitted separately through the additional upload buttons provided.

To convert your MS Word or WordPerfect documents to a PDF file, you will need to “Save As” or “Export to” a PDF file in Microsoft Word or another word processing software, or use Adobe Acrobat (**please note:** the free version of Adobe Reader software does NOT support document conversion), or another 3rd party PDF conversion tools installed on your machine. If you do not have this type of software installed, you can use an online service to perform the conversion.

As noted above, the proposal and bibliography must be uploaded as a single document. If you attempt to upload them as two separate documents, the second document you upload will overwrite the first. You will still be able to submit your application if this happens, but the application will be deemed incomplete.

If you experience technical difficulties uploading a document to your application, check the document size and format. If you cannot upload a document after repeated troubleshooting, email apn@ssrc.org to have an APN and Next Gen team member address the issue.

Research Proposal and Bibliography

Overview and formatting requirements

Your proposal should be comprehensive and written in clear, coherent, non-technical prose. It must be between seven (7) to eleven (11) pages (including the bibliography), double-spaced and in Times New Roman 11-point font, with one-inch margins, and collated as a single document.

Proposals below the absolute minimum of seven (7) pages or the absolute maximum of eleven (11) pages will be deemed ineligible and removed without consideration.

The proposal bibliography should be in [Chicago Manual Style](#) and must not exceed one (1) page.

Your proposal and bibliography MUST be collated and submitted as a single PDF file.

Current Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please upload a recent, updated copy of your CV. Your CV should accurately reflect your skills and experience in a coherent and legible manner. All CVs must be submitted in English. There is no page limit.

Proposed Research Timeline and Budget

All applicants are required to submit a preliminary draft timeline and budget outlining how the fellowship period will be spent and how monies will be used.

Proposed Research Timeline

Timelines cannot exceed six months of research followed by three months of analysis and writing, and should utilize most of the available time provided by the award.

Included in the Proposed Research Timeline:

- Proposed location(s) for research and explanation of why your project requires the stated on-site research.
- A research schedule, justifying how much time you propose to spend at each research location. Note that the Individual Research Fellowship provides support for six months of research, from June 2025 to December 2025. Individual Research Fellowship timelines can consider and include three months of time allotted to analysis and writing directly following the research period, ending by March 2026.

Proposed Research Budget

- Budgets cannot exceed US\$15,000 and should utilize all available funds provided by the award. Potential areas of funding include:
 - Costs of travel and accommodation for field-based research
 - Costs of equipment (within reason), tools, and resources for field-based research, literature review, and writing, including books and articles, project design, and development support

- Editorial and professional/institutional support for publications
- Conference costs and related travel for dissemination activities

See the list of [APN IRF FAQs](#) for areas not covered by the fellowship award.

Degree

Your doctoral degree should clearly state the year of its award.

What qualifies as proof of degree:

- Copy of PhD certificate with the date of degree award; OR
- An official letter (with stamp and signature) issued by the university confirming the award of a doctoral degree with the award date.

References and Language Evaluations

Be sure to confirm the email addresses of your referees before you enter the information. The referees and/or language evaluators will be notified by email that you have requested a reference letter and/or language evaluation. The referee/language evaluator must follow the instructions in the email to complete the reference and/or language evaluation letter online. Once submitted, these documents will be automatically added to your application.

Please ensure that you correctly input the emails of your referees, or they will not receive the instructions for uploading their reference letters. After inputting their name and email, make sure to also click "Send Request Now" so that they are notified.

Once reference letters and language evaluations have been submitted by the referees and language evaluators, you will receive an email in your inbox informing you that the step has been completed.

Reference letters and language evaluations must be submitted by the referees and language evaluators. All correspondence with the APN and Next Gen program team regarding trouble inputting the letter into the portal must be made by the referee or language evaluator.

Two Reference Letters

Two (2) letters of reference must be submitted. One should be written by your head of department, dean/director, or an administrative supervisor of similar standing in your institution/organization, while the other should be written by a senior academic or practitioner who is very familiar with your research or work. APN will accept reference letters written in any language. If a reference letter is submitted in another language, it must be accompanied by a certified translated version in English. We strongly encourage you as the applicant to ask your recommenders to submit their reference letters by **January 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST**. References not received by the application deadline may result in a delay in processing your application. All references must be submitted by February 5, 2025, 11:59 pm EST.

Reference Letter Criteria

- Reference letter **MUST** be submitted by the reference.
- Reference letters must be dated within the application period between **October 7, 2024**, and **January 31, 2025**.
- The reference letter must be submitted on an institutional letterhead and bear the referee's signature.
- The referee must include their affiliation to the institution and with the applicant, including specifying the capacity in which they have known the applicant and their familiarity with the applicant's scholarship, competence, and interpersonal skills.
- Additionally, the head of department, dean/director, or a lead dissertation supervisor must include in their reference letter the affiliation of the applicant to the institution and their capacity to conduct research.

Language Evaluation(s)

No more than two (2) language evaluations should be submitted in cases where the applicant is planning to conduct research in an officially recognized national language that is different from their own. If this is required for one officially recognized national language, only one language report is required. Such language evaluation(s) should be conducted by a qualified evaluator and should test and clearly state the applicant's level of language proficiency. If you plan to conduct the research in your native language, you are not required to submit a language evaluation report.

Do you have questions? Visit the [APN IRF Frequently Asked Questions](#) to learn answers to common questions.

African Peacebuilding Network Research Policy Fellowship (APN RPF)

APN RPF Eligibility Requirements

All applicants must be recipients of the APN IRF award within the past five (5) years (2020-2024). In addition, all applicants must be African citizens currently residing in an Africa country.

Residence

APN RPF recipients will be placed by the APN and Next Gen program at an African regional or national policy think tank, institution, and civil society advocacy organization operating in the fields of peacebuilding, security, and development in Central, East, Southern, and West Africa for the duration of the fellowship.

Recipients will be embedded fully in the host institution during the period of the fellowship.

Thematic Priorities

Prospective applicants must submit an initial letter of interest to the program. Those with successful letters of interest will be invited to submit proposals that may cover a range of policy issues related to peacebuilding, security, and development, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Africa Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) and the prospects of peacebuilding
- African Peacebuilding Interventions: military and non-military norms and practices
- AU Agenda 2063
- Conflict Prevention, Conflict Management, and Mediation
- Continental and Regional Peace and Security Organs and Mechanisms
- Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism
- Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement (DDRRR)
- Early Warning and Response Systems
- Illicit Financial Flows
- Maritime Security
- Peace Support Operations

- Responsibility to Protect (R2P)
- Silencing the Guns 2030
- UN-AU-EU-REC partnerships, peace operations, funding, security, and peacebuilding architectures
- Unconstitutional Changes of Government
- Women, Peace, and Security
- Youth for Peace

Language

Application materials must be submitted in English. In cases where academic degrees are in a language other than English, a certified version of the translation must be uploaded with the degree in a collated, single document.

APN RPF Application Guidelines

Selection Process

Eligibility Review

Only letters of interest submitted by **November 8, 2024, 11:59 pm EST** through the application portal will be considered. If you are having trouble submitting your application, please review the [“Application Portal section of the guidebook”](#) or send an email to apn@ssrc.org if issues persist.

All letters of interest that do not meet the eligibility criteria described in the section “APN RPF Eligibility Requirements” will be screened out.

All proposed projects must build upon the APN IRF-sponsored research conducted by the applicant.

Criteria

Fellowship award decisions are typically made on the basis of the following criteria:

- The originality and innovation of the project to contribute new knowledge to the field.
- Quality of the proposed project and its alignment with the goals of potential host institutions.

- Relevance of the research to an existing policy and practice-related mechanism/protocol at the national or regional level.
- Feasibility to complete the project within the award timeline.

APN RPF Application Requirements

Overview of Requirements

Please review this list of requirements for your application, which must be submitted through the application portal.

- **Round 1 (Deadline: November 8, 2024, 11:59 pm EST)**
 - Applicants must submit an initial one-page letter of interest consisting of:
 - Title of proposed project
 - Duration of proposed project
 - Relevance of proposed project to peacebuilding mechanisms, policies, and practices in Africa
 - Preferred host institution/think-tank (optional)

After a review of the submitted letters of interest, shortlisted applicants will be contacted (within two weeks after the deadline) to submit fully developed applications to the program.

- **Round 2 (Deadline: January 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST)**
 - Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to submit fully developed applications consisting of:
 - Online Application Form
 - Project Proposal with a complete bibliography and cover page
 - Titles of potential publication(s)
 - Curriculum Vitae (CV)
 - Proposed Project Timeline
 - Proposed Project Budget
 - Two Reference Letters

Refer to the [“Application Portal section of the guidebook”](#) for information on creating an account or accessing an existing application.

Do you have questions? Visit the [APN RPF Frequently Asked Questions](#) to learn answers to common questions.

Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa: Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Fellowship (Next Gen Proposal)

Next Gen Proposal Eligibility Requirements

Nationality and Residence

All applicants must be African citizens currently residing in an African country.

Institutional affiliation and location

All applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral program by the time of the award, and working towards the submission of the doctoral dissertation proposal in an accredited university in **Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda**.

Thematic Priorities

Prospective Next Gen Proposal applicants are encouraged to submit applications covering a range of issues related to peacebuilding, security and development in conflict-affected contexts including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate, Environment, and Resources
 - Climate change, energy transitions, conflict, and peace
 - Human mobilities, insecurities, and peace
 - Hydropolitics, conflict, and peace
 - Natural resource conflict: community, national, and regional dimensions
- Justice, Peace, and Regional/International Stakeholders
 - Peace education and African futures
 - Regional Economic Communities (RECs), regionalism, peace, and security
 - Transitional justice, reconciliation, and peace
 - UN-AU-EU-REC partnerships, peace operations, funding, security, and peacebuilding architectures
- Nationalism, Identity, Religion, and Culture
 - Access to justice, diversity, and citizenship
 - Religion and peace
 - State-building, nation-building, identities and citizenship

- Women, youth, and peacebuilding
- State and Non-state Stakeholders, Governance, and Conflict
 - African Peacebuilding Interventions: military and non-military norms and practices
 - Dimensions of conflict and security: regional, trans-border, national, and interpersonal
 - Diseases, politics, and peace
 - Geopolitics and histories of conflict, conflict mediation, and peace
 - Political transitions, elections, governance, and development
 - Prevention of mass atrocities
 - Resilience, conflict prevention, and transformation
 - Small arms and light weapons (SALW), transnational crime, violent extremism, war, displacement, and migration
 - Social exclusion, economic marginalization, and the social dynamics of conflict and peace
 - Structural causes, drivers, types, actors, and trajectories of violent conflict
 - The economic and financial dimensions of peace support operations and post-conflict reconstruction
- Technology, Media, and Arts
 - AI and the fourth industrial revolution: risks to and opportunities for peacebuilding
 - Cultures, media, and art(s) of peace
 - Digital media, technology, war and peace
 - Generative AI and the ethics of knowledge production and practice of peacebuilding
 - Social media, community, advocacy, and peacebuilding
 - Theater, music, and peace

Academic Qualification and Title

Applicants must hold or show proof of award of a master's degree by the time of application.

Applicants who already hold a PhD will be screened out, and their application will not be considered.

Stage of Doctoral Dissertation

Applicants for the Next Gen Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Development fellowship should be enrolled in a PhD program and working on developing a doctoral dissertation research proposal at an accredited university in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda. Students who recently completed a master's degree and are in the process of enrolling in a PhD program at an accredited university in the eligible countries, and successfully enrolled by the time of the award, will also be considered.

Language

Application material must be submitted in English. In cases where academic degrees or reference letters are in a language other than English, a certified English translation must be uploaded with the degree or reference letter in a collated, continuous document.

Next Gen Proposal Application Guidelines

Selection Process

Eligibility Review

Only applications submitted by **January 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST** through the application portal will be considered. Two references must be submitted by February 5th, 2025, 11:59 pm EST through the application portal to have the application considered. If you are having trouble submitting your application, please review the [“Application Portal section of the guidebook”](#) and send an email to nextgen@ssrc.org if issues persist.

All applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria described in the section [“Next Gen Research Eligibility Requirements”](#) will be screened out before having their application considered.

Applications with incomplete sections, including those that do not meet the specific criteria for responses to questions, incomplete or inadequate document uploads, or those missing references, will not be considered.

Criteria

Fellowship award decisions are typically made on the basis of the following criteria:

- The originality and salience of the project to contribute new knowledge to the field.
- Quality and alignment of all facets of the proposal, research objectives, concepts, theoretical framework, and methodology.
- Feasibility and relevance of the methodology proposed.
- The relevance of the project to the ongoing scholarly discourse.
- Feasibility to complete the dissertation proposal.

Every year we receive an incredible pool of eligible applications for the fellowship awards. The competition is rigorous, and not being selected for an award is by no means an indication of a lack of merit.

Next Gen Proposal Application Requirements

Requirements

Please review this list of requirements for your application, which must be submitted through the Application Portal:

- Draft dissertation proposal;
- Curriculum Vitae (CV);
- Copy of master's degree;
- Proposed research timeline; and,
- Proposed research budget.

Online Application Form

All applications must be uploaded through the SSRC's [Online Application Portal](#).

Refer to the "[Application Portal section of the guidebook](#)" for information on creating an account or accessing an existing application.

Important information to keep in mind when completing your application

1. You will not be able to submit your application after the deadline of **January 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST**.
2. What you type into the form is exactly what will be seen by our reviewers. Therefore, please fill out the form carefully, paying attention to spelling, case (do not use all caps), punctuation, and grammar.

3. Text boxes will hold only a limited amount of text. Where longer answers are permitted, the number of available characters will normally be indicated. We suggest that you type rather than paste your response. If you paste your response, be sure your character count does not exceed the limit: excess text may appear on the screen but will not print and will not be visible to reviewers. Examine your printed application to be sure your response is complete.
4. Begin typing all answers on the extreme left-hand side of the response area or box. Do not leave a space or indent at the beginning of your answer.

Contact and Personal Information

Please complete the page with accurate information regarding your personal and contact information.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT Under 'Fellowship Type,' applicants must select the correct fellowship award type they are applying for, either as a Next Gen Proposal, Research, or Completion Fellow. **Please review the "[Award Types](#)" for a description of the Proposal, Research, and Completion categories of applicants.** If you incorrectly select a type of fellowship award you are not eligible for, your application will not be considered.

Academic / Background Information Section

The Academic/Background Information section should reflect the experiences, qualifications, and present affiliations of the applicant in the following sections:'

- Educational History
- Research Projects
- Teaching Experience (if any)
- Employment History
- Research Travel / Residence History (optional)
- Language Self-Evaluation (optional)
- Previous Awards (optional)
- Biography and Future Plans

Project Information Section

Please proceed through the following sections by including the relevant requested details on your proposed project:

- Dissertation Title
- Abstract
- Place(s) in which you will undertake the project for which you are applying.
- Keywords

Please proceed through the following sections by reflecting the relevance of your dissertation:

- Relationship of project to the Next Gen thematic priorities.
- Please state the research problem you wish to address. How does it engage and advance existing literature in your chosen field of research?
- Briefly state the objectives of your research. Why did you select these sites and how do they shed light on this particular research problem?
- What new knowledge or information would the dissertation contribute to existing literature? What are we going to learn as a result of the project that we do not know now, and why is it worth knowing?
- Description of dissertation work in progress or already completed.
- Changes in research design and findings.
- Plans for use of the fellowship.

Document Upload Section

Instructions for Uploading Your Documents

Your proposal and bibliography **MUST** be collated and submitted together as a single PDF file, while your CV, Proposed Research Timeline, and Proposed Research Budget must each be submitted separately through the additional upload buttons provided.

To convert your MS Word or WordPerfect documents to a PDF file, you will need to “Save As” or “Export to” a PDF file in Microsoft Word or other word processing software, or use Adobe Acrobat (**please note:** the free version of Adobe Reader software does NOT support document conversion), or another 3rd party PDF conversion tools installed on your machine. If you do not have this type of software installed, you can use an online service to perform the conversion.

As noted above, the proposal and bibliography must be uploaded as a single document. If you attempt to upload them as two separate documents, the second document you upload will overwrite the first. You will still be able to submit your application if this happens, but the application will be deemed incomplete.

If you experience difficulties uploading a document after repeated troubleshooting, email nextgenafrica@ssrc.org to have an APN and Next Gen team member address the issue.

Draft Dissertation Proposal and Formatting Requirements

Your draft dissertation proposal should reflect the stage of work you have completed so far. This should be comprehensive and written in clear, coherent, non-technical prose. With no page limit on the draft dissertation proposal, the document should include a bibliography in [Chicago Manual Style](#) and be double-spaced in Times New Roman 11-point font with one-inch margins. It should also be collated as a single document.

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please upload a recent, updated copy of your CV. Your CV should accurately reflect your skills and experience in a coherent and legible manner. All CVs must be submitted in English. There is no page limit.

Proposed Research Timeline

- Six (6) months, from July 2025 to December 2025

Proposed Project Budget

- Proposal Fellowship: \$3,000 USD
- Include a brief but feasible budget outline (not detailed, and not exceeding the \$3,000 USD allotted amount). Potential areas of funding include:
 - Pre-field work expenses
 - Costs of equipment (within reason) and resources for literature review and writing, including books and articles, project design, and development support
 - Editorial and professional/institutional support
 - Conference costs and related travel

See the list of [Next Gen FAQs](#) for areas not covered by the fellowship award.

References

Two (2) reference letters must be submitted with your application. One reference letter must come from your head of department, dean/director, or a lead supervisor. The second letter should be by a senior academic or practitioner who is familiar with your work and

academic interests. Only two reference letters will be accepted. You may choose to send a copy of your project proposal to referees so that they may evaluate the statement and comment on your ability to carry it out.

Be sure to confirm the email addresses of your referees before you enter the information. The referees and/or language evaluators will be notified by email that you have requested a reference letter and/or language evaluation. The referee/language evaluator must follow the instructions in the email to complete the reference and/or language evaluation letter online. Once submitted, these documents will be automatically added to your application.

Please ensure to correctly input the emails of your referees, or they will not receive the instructions for uploading their reference letters. After inputting their name and email, make sure to also click "Send Request Now" so that they are notified.

We strongly encourage you as the applicant to ask your recommenders to submit their reference letters by **January 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST**. Reference letters received after the application deadline may delay the processing of your application. All references must be submitted by February 5, 2025, 11:59 pm EST.

Reference Letter Criteria

- Reference letter **MUST** be submitted by the reference. If this is deemed to not be the case, the application will not be considered.
- Reference letters must be dated within the period that the application portal is open between **October 7, 2024**, and **January 31, 2025**.
- The reference letter must be submitted on an institutional letterhead and bear the referee's signature.
- For the head of department, dean/director, or a lead supervisor, the reference letter must confirm the affiliation of the applicant at the institution and their capacity to conduct research.
- The reference written by a senior academic or practitioner who is familiar with the applicant's work must include the referee's institutional affiliation, the history and duration of their professional association with the applicant, familiarity with the applicant's scholarship and ability to complete the project, and applicant's competence and interpersonal skills.

Do you have questions? Visit the [Next Gen Frequently Asked Questions](#) to learn answers to common questions.

Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa: Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship (Next Gen Research)

Next Gen Research Eligibility Requirements

Nationality and Residence

All applicants must be African citizens currently residing in an African country.

Institutional affiliation and location

All applicants must be enrolled and working towards a PhD in an accredited university in **Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda.**

Thematic Priorities

Prospective Next Gen Research applicants are encouraged to submit applications covering a range of issues related to peacebuilding, security and development in conflict-affected contexts including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate, Environment, and Resources
 - Climate change, energy transitions, conflict, and peace
 - Human mobilities, insecurities, and peace
 - Hydropolitics, conflict, and peace
 - Natural resource conflict: community, national, and regional dimensions
- Justice, Peace, and Regional/International Stakeholders
 - Peace education and African futures
 - Regional Economic Communities (RECs), regionalism, peace, and security
 - Transitional justice, reconciliation, and peace
 - UN-AU-EU-REC partnerships, peace operations, funding, security, and peacebuilding architectures
- Nationalism, Identity, Religion, and Culture
 - Access to justice, diversity, and citizenship
 - Religion and peace
 - State-building, nation-building, identities and citizenship

- Women, youth, and peacebuilding
- State and Non-state Stakeholders, Governance, and Conflict
 - African Peacebuilding Interventions: military and non-military norms and practices
 - Dimensions of conflict and security: regional, trans-border, national, and interpersonal
 - Diseases, politics, and peace
 - Geopolitics and histories of conflict, conflict mediation, and peace
 - Political transitions, elections, governance, and development
 - Prevention of mass atrocities
 - Resilience, conflict prevention, and transformation
 - Small arms and light weapons (SALW), transnational crime, violent extremism, war, displacement, and migration
 - Social exclusion, economic marginalization, and the social dynamics of conflict and peace
 - Structural causes, drivers, types, actors, and trajectories of violent conflict
 - The economic and financial dimensions of peace support operations and post-conflict reconstruction
- Technology, Media, and Arts
 - AI and the fourth industrial revolution: risks to and opportunities for peacebuilding
 - Cultures, media, and art(s) of peace
 - Digital media, technology, war and peace
 - Generative AI and the ethics of knowledge production and practice of peacebuilding
 - Social media, community, advocacy, and peacebuilding
 - Theater, music, and peace

Academic Qualification and Title

Applicants must be enrolled in a PhD program at the time of application.

Applicants who already hold a PhD will be screened out and their application will not be considered.

Stage of Doctoral Dissertation

Applicants for the Next Gen Doctoral Dissertation Research Development fellowship must have their proposal and research instruments approved by their institution and plan to use the fellowship period to conduct research for their doctoral dissertation.

Applicants must be enrolled in a PhD program in an accredited university in **Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda** at the time of the award.

Language

Application material must be submitted in English. In cases where academic degrees or reference letters are in a language other than English, a certified English translation must be uploaded with the degree or reference letter in a collated single document.

Next Gen Research Application Guidelines

Selection Process

Eligibility Review

Only applications submitted by **January 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST** through the Application Portal will be considered. Two references must be submitted by February 5th, 2025, 11:59 pm EST through the Application Portal to have the application considered. If you experience difficulties submitting your application, please review the [“Application Portal section of the guidebook”](#) and send an email to nextgen@ssrc.org if issues persist.

All applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria described in the section “Next Gen Proposal Eligibility Requirements” will be screened out before their application is considered.

Applications with incomplete sections, including those that do not meet the specific criteria for responses to questions, incomplete or inadequate document uploads, or those missing references, will not be considered.

Criteria

Fellowship award decisions are typically made on the basis of the following criteria:

- The originality and salience of the project to contribute new knowledge to the field.
- Quality and alignment of all facets of the research objectives, tools, and methodology utilized to complete the project.
- The relevance of the project to the ongoing scholarly discourse.
- Feasibility to complete the research project.

Each year we receive an incredible pool of eligible applications for the fellowship awards. The competition is rigorous, and not being selected for an award is by no means an indication of a lack of merit.

Next Gen Research Application Requirements

Requirements

Please review this list of requirements for your application, which all be submitted through the Application Portal:

- Approved dissertation proposal;
- Approved research instrument(s);
- Draft dissertation chapter outline;
- Curriculum Vitae (CV);
- Copy of master's degree;
- Proposed research timeline; and,
- Proposed research budget.

Online Application Form

All applications must be uploaded through our [Online Application Portal](#).

Refer to the [“Application Portal section of the guidebook”](#) for information on creating an account or accessing an existing application.

Important information to keep in mind when completing your application

1. You will not be able to submit your application after the deadline of **January 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST.**

2. What you type into the form is exactly what will be seen by our reviewers. Therefore, please fill out the form carefully, paying attention to spelling, case (do not use all caps), punctuation, and grammar.
3. Text boxes will hold only a limited amount of text. Where longer answers are permitted, the number of available characters will normally be indicated. We suggest that you type rather than paste your response. If you paste your response, be sure your character count does not exceed the limit: excess text may appear on the screen but will not print and will not be visible to reviewers. Examine your printed application to be sure your response is complete.
4. Begin typing all answers on the extreme left-hand side of the response area or box. Do not leave a space or indent at the beginning of your answer.

If you experience difficulties uploading a document after repeated troubleshooting, email nextgenafrica@ssrc.org to have an APN and Next Gen team member address the issue.

Contact and Personal Information

Please complete the page with accurate information regarding your personal and contact information.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT Under 'Fellowship Type,' applicants must select the correct fellowship award type they are applying for, either as a Next Gen Proposal, Research, or Completion Fellow. **Please review the "[Next Gen Research Eligibility Requirements](#)" for a description of the Proposal, Research, and Completion categories of applicants.** If you incorrectly select a type of fellowship award you are not eligible for, your application will not be considered.

Academic / Background Information Section

The Academic/Background Information section should reflect the experiences, qualifications, and present affiliations of the applicant in the following sections:

- Educational History
- Research Projects
- Teaching Experience (if any)
- Employment History
- Research Travel / Residence History (optional)
- Language Self-Evaluation (optional)
- Previous Awards (optional)

- Biography and Future Plans

Project Information Section

Please proceed through the following sections by including the relevant requested details on your proposed project:

- Dissertation Title
- Abstract
- Place(s) in which you will undertake the project for which you are applying
- Keywords

Please proceed through the following sections by reflecting the relevance of your dissertation:

- Relationship of project to the Next Gen thematic priorities.
- Please state the research problem you wish to address. How does it engage and advance existing literature in your chosen field of research?
- Briefly state the objectives of your research. Why did you select these sites and how do they shed light on this particular research problem?
- What are we going to learn as a result of the project that we do not know now, and why is it worth knowing?
- Description of dissertation work in progress or already completed.
- Changes in research design and findings.
- Plans for use of the fellowship.

Document Upload Section

Instructions for Uploading Your Documents

Your proposal and bibliography **MUST** be collated and submitted together as a single PDF file, while your CV, Proposed Research Timeline, and Proposed Research Budget must each be submitted separately through the additional upload buttons provided.

To convert your MS Word or WordPerfect documents to a PDF file, you will need to “Save As” or “Export to” a PDF file in Microsoft Word or other word processing software, or use Adobe Acrobat (**please note:** the free version of Adobe Reader software does NOT support document conversion), or another 3rd party PDF conversion tools installed on

your machine. If you do not have this type of software installed, you can use an online service to perform the conversion.

As noted above, the proposal and bibliography must be uploaded as a single document. If you attempt to upload them as two separate documents, the second document you upload will overwrite the first. You will still be able to submit your application if this happens, but the application will be deemed incomplete.

If you cannot upload a document after repeated troubleshooting, email nextgenafrica@ssrc.org to have an APN and Next Gen team member address the issue.

Approved dissertation Proposal

The entire approved dissertation proposal must be provided. The dissertation proposal should also include an institutional stamp, document, or result stating the work has been approved.

Approved Dissertation Research Instruments

Please provide your approved dissertation research instrument(s): questionnaire, interview schedule, observation schedule, qualitative coding, etc. The research instruments should also include an institutional stamp, document, or result stating the work has been approved.

Draft Dissertation Chapter

An outline of a draft chapter of the dissertation and bibliography (in [Chicago Manual Style](#)) that are each at least one page long.

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please upload a recent, updated copy of your CV. Your CV should accurately reflect your skills and experience in a coherent and legible manner. All CVs must be submitted in English. There is no page limit.

Proposed Research Timeline

- Proposed location(s) for research and explanation of why your project requires the stated on-site research
- Twelve (12) months, from July 2025 to July 2026

Proposed Project Budget

- Research Fellowship: \$15,000 USD
- Include a brief, but feasible budget outline (not detailed, and not exceeding the \$15,000 USD allotted amount). Potential areas of funding include:
 - Costs of travel and accommodation for field-based research
 - Costs of equipment (within reason) and resources for field-based research, literature review, and writing, including books and articles, project design and development support
 - Editorial and professional/institutional support for publications
 - Conference costs and related travel for dissemination activities

See the list of [Next Gen FAQs](#) for areas not covered by the fellowship award.

References

Two (2) reference letters must be submitted with your application. One reference letter must come from your lead dissertation supervisor. The second letter should be from the head of the department or the dean of the school or faculty. Only two reference letters will be accepted. You may choose to send a copy of your project proposal to referees so that they may evaluate the statement and comment on your ability to carry it out.

Be sure to confirm the email addresses of your referees before you enter the information. The referees and/or language evaluators will be notified by email that you have requested a reference letter and/or language evaluation. The referee/language evaluator must follow the instructions in the email to complete the reference and/or language evaluation letter online. Once submitted, these documents will be automatically added to your application.

Please ensure to correctly input the emails of your referees, or they will not receive the instructions for uploading their reference letters. After inputting their name and email, make sure to also click "Send Request Now" so that they are notified.

We strongly encourage you as the applicant to ask your recommenders to submit their reference letters by **January 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST**. Reference letters received after the application deadline may delay the processing of your application. All references must be submitted by February 5, 2025, 11:59 pm EST.

Referee and Reference Letter Criteria

- Reference letter **MUST** be submitted by the reference. If this is deemed to not be the case, the application will not be considered.

- Reference letters must be dated within the period that the application portal is open between **October 7, 2024**, and **January 31, 2025**.
- The reference letter must be submitted on institutional letterhead and bear the referee's signature.
- The head of the department or the dean of the faculty or school and the lead dissertation supervisor should each provide a reference letter that speaks to the affiliation of the applicant at the institution, the status and stage of doctoral study, the title of the doctoral dissertation, and their capacity to conduct research. The reference should also comment on the applicant's competence and interpersonal skills.

Do you have questions? Visit the [Next Gen Frequently Asked Questions](#) to learn answers to common questions.

Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa: Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship (Next Gen Completion)

Next Gen Completion Eligibility Requirements

Nationality and Residence

All applicants must be African citizens currently residing in an African country.

Institutional affiliation and location

All applicants must be enrolled and working towards a PhD in an accredited university in **Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda.**

Thematic Priorities

Prospective Next Gen Completion applicants are encouraged to submit applications covering a range of issues related to peacebuilding, security and development including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate, Environment, and Resources
 - Climate change, energy transitions, conflict, and peace
 - Human mobilities, insecurities, and peace
 - Hydropolitics, conflict, and peace
 - Natural resource conflict: community, national, and regional dimensions
- Justice, Peace, and Regional/International Stakeholders
 - Peace education and African futures
 - Regional Economic Communities (RECs), regionalism, peace, and security
 - Transitional justice, reconciliation, and peace
 - UN-AU-EU-REC partnerships, peace operations, funding, security, and peacebuilding architectures
- Nationalism, Identity, Religion, and Culture
 - Access to justice, diversity, and citizenship
 - Religion and peace
 - State-building, nation-building, identities and citizenship

- Women, youth, and peacebuilding
- State and Non-state Stakeholders, Governance, and Conflict
 - African Peacebuilding Interventions: military and non-military norms and practices
 - Dimensions of conflict and security: regional, trans-border, national, and interpersonal
 - Diseases, politics, and peace
 - Geopolitics and histories of conflict, conflict mediation, and peace
 - Political transitions, elections, governance, and development
 - Prevention of mass atrocities
 - Resilience, conflict prevention, and transformation
 - Small arms and light weapons (SALW), transnational crime, violent extremism, war, displacement, and migration
 - Social exclusion, economic marginalization, and the social dynamics of conflict and peace
 - Structural causes, drivers, types, actors, and trajectories of violent conflict
 - The economic and financial dimensions of peace support operations and post-conflict reconstruction
- Technology, Media, and Arts
 - AI and the fourth industrial revolution: risks to and opportunities for peacebuilding
 - Cultures, media, and art(s) of peace
 - Digital media, technology, war and peace
 - Generative AI and the ethics of knowledge production and practice of peacebuilding
 - Social media, community, advocacy, and peacebuilding
 - Theater, music, and peace

Academic Qualification and Title at time of application

Applicants must be enrolled in a PhD program at the time of application.

Applicants who already hold a PhD will be screened out and their application will not be considered.

Stage of Doctoral Dissertation

Applicants for the Next Gen Doctoral Dissertation Completion fellowship must have their dissertation proposal approved by their institution and plan to use the fellowship period

for completing their doctoral dissertation. All applicants must have at least two (2) completed draft chapters.

Applicants must be enrolled in a PhD program in an accredited African university in **Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda** at the time of the award.

Language

Application material must be submitted in English. In cases where academic degrees are in a language other than English, a translation must be uploaded with the degree in a collated, single document.

Next Gen Completion Application Guidelines

Selection Process

Eligibility Review

Only applications submitted by **January 31, 2025 11:59 pm EST** through the application portal will be considered. Two references must be submitted by February 5th, 2025, 11:59 pm EST through the application portal to have the application considered. If you are having trouble submitting your application, please review the [“Application Portal section of the guidebook”](#) and send an email to nextgen@ssrc.org if issues persist.

All applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria described in the section “Next Gen Proposal Eligibility Requirements” will be screened out before having their application considered.

Applications with incomplete sections, including those that do not meet the specific criteria for responses to questions, incomplete or inadequate document uploads, or those missing references, will not be considered.

Criteria

Fellowship award decisions are typically made on the basis of the following criteria:

- The originality and salience of the project to contribute new knowledge to the field.
- Quality and alignment of all facets of the research methods, objectives, concepts, and theoretical framework.

- The relevance of the project to the ongoing scholarly discourse.
- Feasibility to complete the research project.

Each year we receive an incredible pool of eligible applications for the fellowship awards. The competition is rigorous, and not being selected for an award is by no means an indication of a lack of merit.

Next Gen Completion Application Requirements

Requirements

Please review the following list of requirements for your application, which must all be submitted through the Application Portal:

- Online Application Form;
- Copy of their approved dissertation proposal;
- Two draft chapters of their doctoral dissertation;
- Curriculum Vitae (CV);
- Proposed budget;
- Proposed timeline; and,
- Copy of your master's degree.

Online Application Form

All applications must be uploaded through our [Online Application Portal](#).

Refer to the “[Application Portal section of the guidebook](#)” for information on creating an account or accessing an existing application.

Important information to keep in mind when completing your application

1. You will not be able to submit your application after the deadline of **January 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST**.
2. What you type into the form is exactly what will be seen by our reviewers. Therefore, please fill out the form carefully, paying attention to spelling, case (do not use all caps), punctuation, and grammar.
3. Text boxes will hold only a limited amount of text. Where longer answers are permitted, the number of available characters will normally be indicated. We suggest that you type rather than paste your response. If you paste your response,

be sure your character count does not exceed the limit: excess text may appear on the screen but will not print and will not be visible to reviewers. Examine your printed application to be sure your response is complete.

4. Begin typing all answers on the extreme left-hand side of the response area or box. Do not leave a space or indent at the beginning of your answer.

If you experience difficulties uploading a document after repeated troubleshooting, email nextgenafrika@ssrc.org to have an APN and Next Gen team member address the issue.

Contact and Personal Information

Please complete the page with accurate information regarding your personal and contact information.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT Under ‘Fellowship Type,’ applicants must select the correct fellowship award type they are applying for, either as a Next Gen Proposal, Research, or Completion Fellow. **Please review the “[Next Gen Completion Eligibility Requirements](#)” for a description of the Proposal, Research, and Completion categories of applicants.** If you incorrectly select a type of fellowship award you are not eligible for, your application will not be considered.

Academic / Background Information Section

The Academic/Background Information section should reflect the experiences, qualifications, and present affiliations of the applicant in the following sections:

- Educational History
- Research Projects
- Teaching Experience (if any)
- Employment History
- Research Travel / Residence History (optional)
- Language Self-Evaluation (optional)
- Previous Awards (optional)
- Biography and Future Plans

Project Information Section

Please proceed through the following sections by including the relevant requested details on your proposed project:

- Dissertation Title
- Abstract
- Place(s) in which you will undertake the project for which you are applying.
- Keywords

Please proceed through the following sections by reflecting the relevance of your dissertation:

- Relationship of project to the Next Gen thematic priorities.
- Please state the research problem you wish to address. How does it engage and advance existing literature in your chosen field of research?
- Briefly state the objectives of your research. Why did you select these sites and how do they shed light on this particular research problem?
- What are we going to learn as a result of the project that we do not know now, and why is it worth knowing?
- Description of dissertation work in progress or already completed.
- Changes in research design and findings.
- Plans for use of the fellowship.

Document Upload Section

In addition to filling out the application form, you must upload the following:

- Approved dissertation proposal;
- Two draft dissertation chapters;
- Curriculum Vitae (CV);
- Copy of PhD (academics) or copy of master's degree (practitioners);
- Proposed research timeline; and,
- Proposed research budget.

Instructions for Uploading Your Documents

Your proposal and bibliography **MUST** be collated and submitted together as a single PDF file, while your CV, Proposed Research Timeline, and Proposed Research Budget must each be submitted separately through the additional upload buttons provided.

To convert your MS Word or WordPerfect documents to a PDF file, you will need to “Save As” or “Export to” a PDF file in Microsoft Word or other word processing software, or use Adobe Acrobat (please note the free version of Adobe Reader software does NOT

support document conversion) or another 3rd party PDF conversion tools installed on your machine. If you do not have this type of software installed, you can use an online service to perform the conversion.

As noted above, the proposal and bibliography must be uploaded as a single document. If you attempt to upload them as two separate documents, the second document you upload will overwrite the first. You will still be able to submit your application if this happens, but the application will be deemed incomplete.

If you cannot upload a document after repeated troubleshooting, email nextgenafrica@ssrc.org to have an APN and Next Gen team member address the issue.

Application materials must be submitted in English. In cases where academic degrees are in a language other than English, a translation **must** be uploaded with the degree in a collated, single document.

Approved Dissertation Proposal

The entire approved dissertation proposal must be provided. The dissertation proposal should also include an institutional stamp, document, or result stating the work has been approved.

Draft Dissertation Chapters

Two (2) draft dissertation chapters that are comprehensive and written in clear, coherent, non-technical prose. Please include a draft outline of the entire dissertation. There is no page limit (including the bibliography), double-spaced and in Times New Roman 11-point font, with one-inch margins, and collated as a single document. The document should include a bibliography in [Chicago Manual Style](#).

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please upload a recent, updated copy of your CV. Note that while there is no page limit, your CV should accurately reflect your skills and experience in a coherent and legible manner. All CVs must be submitted in English.

Proposed Research Timeline

- Proposed location(s) for research and explanation of why your project requires the stated on-site research.

- A research/writing schedule, justifying how much time you propose to spend at each research location or doing desk work. The Next Gen Completion fellowship is twelve (12) months, from July 2025 to July 2026.

Proposed Project Budget

- Completion Fellowship: US\$10,000
- Include a brief, but feasible budget outline (not detailed, and not exceeding the US\$10,000 allotted amount). Potential areas of funding include:
 - Costs of travel and accommodation for research and writing
 - Costs of equipment (within reason) and resources for research, literature review, and writing, including books and articles, and development support
 - Compensation to the institution for leave from teaching and administration
 - Editorial and professional/institutional support for publications
 - Conference costs and related travel for dissemination activities.

See the list of [Next Gen FAQs](#) for areas not covered by the fellowship award.

References

Two (2) reference letters must be submitted with your application. One reference letter must come from your principal faculty advisor. The second letter should be from someone who is familiar with your work and academic interests. Only two reference letters will be accepted. You may choose to send a copy of your project proposal to referees so that they may evaluate the statement and comment on your ability to carry it out.

Be sure to confirm the email addresses of your referees before you enter the information. The referees and/or language evaluators will be notified by email that you have requested a reference letter and/or language evaluation. The referee/language evaluator must follow the instructions in the email to complete the reference and/or language evaluation letter online. Once submitted, these documents will be automatically added to your application.

Please ensure to correctly input the emails of your referees, or they will not receive the instructions for uploading their reference letter. After inputting their name and email, make sure to also click "Send Request Now" so that they are notified.

We strongly encourage you as the applicant to ask your recommenders to submit their reference letters by **January 31, 2025, 11:59 pm EST**. Reference letters received after the application deadline may delay the processing of your application. All references must be submitted by February 5, 2025, 11:59 pm EST.

Referee and Reference Letter Criteria

- Reference letter **MUST** be submitted by the reference. If this is deemed to not be the case, the application will not be considered.
- Reference letters must be dated within the period that the application portal is open between **October 7, 2024**, and **January 31, 2025**.
- The reference letter must be submitted on institutional letterhead and bear the referee's signature.
- The referee must include their affiliation to an institution, the history and duration of their professional association with the applicant, and familiarity with the applicant's scholarship and their ability to complete the project.
- The lead dissertation supervisor should provide a reference letter that speaks to the title of the doctoral dissertation and the status and stage of doctoral study, including the expected date of the submission of the completed first draft of the doctoral dissertation. The reference should also comment on the applicant's competence and interpersonal skills.
- The head of the department or the dean of the faculty or school should provide a reference letter that speaks to the affiliation of the applicant at the institution, the status and stage of doctoral study, the title of the doctoral dissertation, and their capacity to conduct research. The reference should also comment on the applicant's competence and interpersonal skills.

Do you have questions? Visit the [Next Gen Frequently Asked Questions](#) to learn answers to common questions.