African Peacebuilding
& Developmental Dynamics

APDD FELLOWSHIP AWARDS APPLICATION GUIDEBOOK

2027 Edition

2027 African Peacebuilding and Developmental Dynamics Fellowship Awards Application Guidebook



APPLICATION DEADLINE: 11:59 PM ET on Friday, January 15, 2027

Applications must be submitted using the Online Application Portal.

Email apdd@ssrc.org for questions.

African Peacebuilding & Developmental Dynamics

SSRC Social Science Research Council

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About African Peacebuilding and Developmental Dynamics (APDD)

The **African Peacebuilding and Developmental Dynamics (APDD) program** is an initiative of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), which builds on the synergies between the erstwhile African Peacebuilding Network and Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa (APN and Next Gen) Program. APDD responds to emerging transformations in peacebuilding, developmental dynamics, and state-society relations. The program supports African scholars and practitioners based in the continent's higher education institutions, and national and regional organizations to produce high-quality, globally visible research, while promoting the integration of research-based knowledge into policy and practice in conflict-affected societies. APDD also seeks to strengthen higher education, peace, and post-conflict development across Africa by providing fellowships and training opportunities that enable early to mid-career scholars and practitioners to undertake innovative independent research, and PhD students to progress steadily toward completing their doctorates, while serving as a platform for networking across countries, regions, generations, and disciplines. In this regard, the program actively builds partnerships with African universities, policy institutions, civil society organizations and professional academic or research associations, rooted in mutual respect and collegial exchange. The program signals its dual commitment to peacebuilding and developmental dynamics as interconnected priorities, while continuing to expand fellowships, capacity-building initiatives, and impactful institutional partnerships.

The APDD program is generously funded by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation.

2027 APDD Fellowship Awards

30 fellowships will be awarded in the 2027 APDD Fellowship Competition. These fellowship awards are open to applicants through the five (5) award types listed below:

- 9 Individual Research Fellowships - up to US$12,000 each
- 1 Research Policy Fellowship - up to US$12,000 each
- 3 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Fellowships - up to US$3,000 each
- 9 Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowships - up to US$12,000 each
- 8 Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowships - up to US$8,000 each

Award Types

Each of the five (5) APDD fellowships offered in 2027 serves a different type and stage of scholarship, either for individuals currently working towards their doctoral dissertation or in the early to the mid-stages of their academic careers.

The APDD selection committee will only consider applications eligible for the respective award the applicant has applied for. **Applications will not be reallocated to the type of fellowship award for which they are best suited. Therefore, it is crucial that applicants 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, thematic foci, selection process, and application requirements sections of each respective award to ensure that you have selected the appropriate award to apply for.

Individual Research Fellowship

The Individual Research Fellowship (IRF) supports early to mid-career scholars or practitioners for up to nine (9) months of field-based research and writing that contributes to knowledge production and policies shaping peacebuilding in Africa.

Research Policy Fellowship

The Research Policy Fellowship (RPF) supports former Individual Research Fellows (who received awards no earlier than June 2022) for up to six (6) 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. The fellowship announcement will be shared directly with those eligible for the opportunity.

Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Fellowship

The Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Fellowship supports African doctoral students enrolled in a university in **Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania,** or **Uganda** to enable

the development of their dissertation proposals and conduct pre-fieldwork surveys, literature review, and dissertation proposal writing over six (6) months.

Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship

The Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship supports African doctoral students enrolled 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.

Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship

The Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship supports African doctoral students enrolled 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 for up to twelve (12) months, with the possibility of extension.



African Peacebuilding & Developmental Dynamics

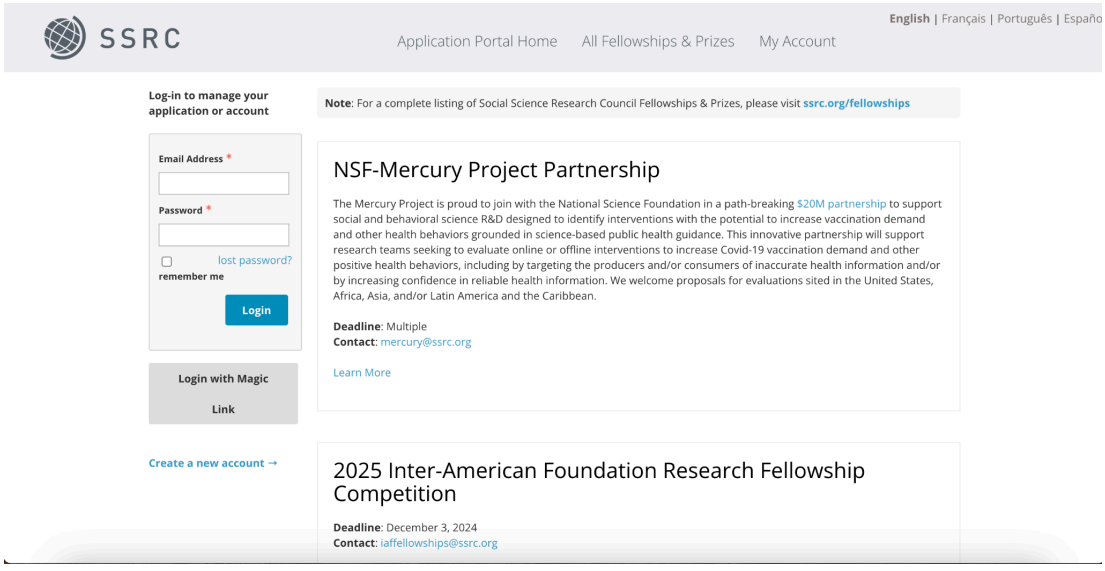
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Application and Selection Timeline

October 14, 2026	Call for Applications
January 15, 2027	Application and References Deadline
March 2027	Applicants notified of advancement/non advancement to External Review
April 2027	Applicants notified of the outcome of External Review
May 2027	All applicants will be notified of their application status
July 2027	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.



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. Use your Username and Password, followed by the verification code sent to the associated email address OR 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 2027 APDD application you have previously started.
5. After updating your 2027 APDD 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 redirect 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 apdd@ssrc.org to have an APDD team member confirm the status of your application.

Individual Research Fellowship (IRF)

IRF Eligibility Requirements

Nationality and Residence

All applicants must be African citizens who are residents of an African country.

Institutional Affiliation and Academic Qualifications

Academics

Academic applicants must hold a full-time faculty or research position in an African university or research organization.

They must also hold a PhD at the time of application, obtained no earlier than January 2017. Applicants who have not been awarded their PhDs by April 2027 **will not** have their applications considered eligible.

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.

They must also have a master's degree obtained before January 2022, with at least five years of proven full-time research and work experience in peacebuilding-related activities on the continent.

Thematic Priorities

Prospective IRF applicants must submit applications covering a range of issues related to peacebuilding, governance, and developmental dynamics in conflict-affected contexts, including the following:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Peacebuilding
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Environmental Security
- Changing Dynamics and Drivers of Natural Resource Conflict, Peace and Security

- Climate Change, Energy Transitions, and Peace
- Constitutionalism, Justice, Leadership, and Peace
- Critical and Precious Minerals, War and Post-War Economies
- Digital Ecologies of (Mis)Trust, Disinformation, Online Violence, and Misinformation
- Drivers and Dynamics of Internal Displacement and Migration
- Economic Dimensions of Conflict, Peace, and Development
- Emerging Transnational Threats: Bioterrorism, Cyberterrorism, and Digital Warfare
- Environmental Change, Conflict and Peacebuilding
- Financing Peacebuilding Architectures, Processes, and Mechanisms
- Gender, Generations, and Identities in the Emerging Dimensions of Peace and Development
- Governance and Ethics of Digital Infrastructures in Peacebuilding
- Humanitarian Intervention, Human Rights and Peace
- Hydro-politics, Conflict, and Peace
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Peacebuilding
- Inequality, Identity Conflict, and the Crisis of Citizenship
- Just and Inclusive Developmental Pathways
- Justice, Social Equity, and Peacebuilding
- New Perspectives to the Roots and Drivers of Conflict
- Political Transitions, Militarism, Violent Extremism, and Governance Crises
- Politics of Faith, Food and Peace
- Public Health, Conflict, and Development
- Rebuilding Socio-technological Relations and Systems as Shapers of Peacebuilding
- Repositioning Africa within Shifting Emerging Global Geopolitical and Strategic Alliances
- Sports, Development, and Peace
- Theater, Music, and Peace
- The Arts, Languages and Cultures of Peace and Development
- Transnational and Transboundary Actors

Language

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

IRF Application Guidelines

Selection Process

Eligibility Review

Only applications and references submitted by **January 15, 2027, 11:59 pm EST** through the application portal will be considered. If you are having trouble submitting your application, please review the "Online Application Portal" of the guidebook or send an email to apdd@ssrc.org if issues persist.

All applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria described in the section "IRF Eligibility Requirements" and "IRF Application Requirements" will be screened out and not 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 based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with the listed thematic priorities.
- The originality and innovativeness of the project and its potential 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 a competitive 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.

IRF Application Requirements

Overview of Requirements

Please review the sections of the Online Application Form on the portal. Components of your application must be submitted through these sections. Detailed instructions for each section listed are provided below:

- Contact and Personal Information
- Academic/Background Information
- Project Information
- Document Upload, including:
    - Research Proposal (with a complete bibliography)
    - Degree Certificate
    - Curriculum Vitae (CV)
    - Proposed Research Timeline
    - Proposed Research Budget
- Two References
- Language Evaluation(s) (if required)

Online Application Form

All applications must be uploaded through the SSRC's Online Application Portal.

Refer to the "Online 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 15, 2027, 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, ensure your word count does not exceed the limit. Any 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.
5. Once you submit your application, you will **not** be able to make changes to it. Please review each field carefully before submission.

If you experience difficulties uploading a document after repeated troubleshooting, email apdd@ssrc.org to have an APDD team member address the issue.

Contact and Personal Information Section

The Contact and Personal Information section should include your contact details, institutional affiliation, and other requested information, as accurately as possible. You will be asked to provide the following:

- Contact information
- Institutional affiliation and job title where you are a full-time faculty member or researcher
- Address during the fellowship period

Please note that all institutional affiliations must be with an accredited university, research organization, or regional/sub-regional African institution.

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
- Publications
- Employment History
- Previous Funding Sources
- Language Self-Evaluation (optional)
- Biography and Future Plans

HIGHLY IMPORTANT Applicants must select their application category, either academic or practitioner. **Please review the "APDD IRF Eligibility Requirements" for a description of the academic and practitioner classifications of applicants.** If you incorrectly select a category that you are not eligible for, your application will **not** be considered.

Project Information Section

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

- Title of Project
- Summary of Project
- Estimated amount of desk research and fieldwork that you expect to complete within the first six (6) months, followed by the remaining three (3) months of analysis and writing, for a total of nine (9) months
- Place(s) in which you will undertake the project for which you are applying
- Keywords

Additionally, provide details in the following sections about the relevance and anticipated outcomes of your research, and the impact of previous research, being mindful of the word counts and additional information given on the application portal:

- Contribution of previous research to relevant policies and practices
- Policy Relevance
- Expectations for the Fellowship Period
- Publications that will likely emerge from your research findings

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 apdd@ssrc.org to have an APDD 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 the Chicago Manual Style and must not exceed two (2) pages. Applicants may opt for the Chicago Manual Style author-date (parenthetical) or notes-bibliography (footnotes/endnotes) for their in-text citations.

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

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please upload a current copy of your CV that includes a list of your publications, awards received, education history, degree(s), and institution(s) where they were received, and employment history. 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.

Degree

Academic applicants must submit documentation of their PhD, while practitioner applicants must submit documentation of their Master's.

What qualifies as proof of degree:

- Notarized copy of the certificate with the date of degree, bearing an official university stamp; OR
- An official letter (with stamp and signature) issued by the university confirming the award of the degree with the award date if the applicant has not received the official copy of their degree.
- ***Academic transcripts are NOT accepted.***

Proposed Research Timeline

Timelines cannot exceed six (6) months of desk research and fieldwork followed by three (3) months of analysis and writing, for a total of nine (9) months. Most of the available time provided by the award must be utilized.

Included in the Proposed Research Timeline:

- 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 July 2027 to December 2027, with the remaining three months of time allotted to analysis and writing directly following the research period, ending by March 2028.

- The project timeline must be listed by months, not weeks. For instance, July 2027, August 2027, etc.

Proposed Research Budget

Budgets cannot exceed US$12,000 and should utilize all available funds provided by the award. ***Please note that budgets must not be below or exceed the fellowship award amount.*** Potential areas of funding include:

- Costs 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

Items not eligible for funding include:

- University overhead
- Individual or institutional contributions, salary support, social security, or other insurance programs.
- Payment on loans, mortgages, other personal indebtedness, or the storage of personal or household effects.

References

Two (2) references 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. Only two (2) references will be accepted. APDD will accept references written in any language, provided that it is accompanied by a certified version translated into English. References not received by the application deadline, **January 15, 2027**, 11:59 pm EST will result in an incomplete application.

Reference Form and Confirmation Letter

- Each referee will be required to complete a reference form confirming their relationship with the applicant and the applicant's academic scholarship, research capacity, and professional/interpersonal skills.
- Each referee must also submit a signed confirmation letter certifying that the information provided in the reference form is an accurate and complete evaluation regarding the applicant's scholarship, competence, and project suitability.
- The confirmation letters:
    - Must be written by the specified referee.
    - Must be dated within the period that the application portal is open between **October 14, 2026,** and **January 15, 2027.**

    - Must be submitted on institutional letterhead and bear the referee's signature.
- Both letters cannot be submitted by the same referee.

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 research in your native language, or in a language you have received your education in, you are not required to submit a language evaluation report.

References and Language Evaluations

Please ensure that you correctly input the emails of your referees and/or language evaluators, or they will not receive the instructions for submitting their references and/or language evaluations. After inputting their name and email, make sure to also click "Send Request Now" so that they are notified. The referee/language evaluator must follow the instructions in the email to complete the reference and/or language evaluation online. **The applicant should follow up with the referees/ language evaluators to ensure the email instructions are received and completed in a timely manner. The applicant will receive a confirmation email once the submission is made.**

Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation email and these documents will be automatically added to your application. After your application is submitted, you can check the status of your reference(s) and language evaluation by opening the Reference/Language Evaluations page in the application portal.

All correspondence with the APDD program team regarding trouble inputting the documents into the portal must be made by the referee or language evaluator.

Do you have questions? Visit the IRF Frequently Asked Questions to learn answers to common questions.

African Peacebuilding & Developmental Dynamics

SSRC Social Science Research Council

Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Fellowship

Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Eligibility Requirements

Nationality and Residence

All applicants must be African citizens who are residents of an African country.

Institutional Affiliation and Location

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

Thematic Priorities

Prospective Doctoral Dissertation Proposal applicants must submit applications covering a range of issues related to peacebuilding, governance, and developmental dynamics in conflict-affected contexts including the following:

- Climate, Environment, and Resources
    - Climate change, energy transitions, conflict, and peace
    - Conflict: community, national, transboundary, and regional dimensions
    - Food Security, Health, Artificial Intelligence, and Peace
    - Human mobilities, insecurities, and peace
    - Hydro-politics, Conflict, and Peace
    - Politics of Food and Peace
- Justice, Peace, and Regional/International Stakeholders
    - Humanitarian Intervention, Human Rights and Peace
    - Inequality, Conflict and Peace
    - 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
    - Changing Dynamics and Drivers of Natural Resource Conflict, Peace and Security
    - Critical and Precious Minerals, War and Post-War Economies
    - Dimensions of conflict and security: regional, trans-border, national, and interpersonal
    - Diseases, politics, and peace
    - Drivers and Dynamics of Internal Displacement and Migration
    - Geopolitics and histories of conflict, conflict mediation, and peace
    - New Perspectives to the Roots and Drivers of Conflict
    - 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
    - The economic and financial dimensions of peace support operations and post-conflict reconstruction
- Technology, Media, Culture, and Arts
    - Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Peacebuilding
    - Cultures, media, and art(s) of peace
    - Digital Ecologies of (Mis)Trust, Disinformation, Online Violence, and Misinformation
    - Generative AI and the ethics of knowledge production and practice of peacebuilding
    - Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Peacebuilding
    - Sports, Development and Peace
    - 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 are not considered eligible.

Stage of Doctoral Dissertation

Applicants for the Doctoral Dissertation Proposal fellowship should be enrolled in a PhD program and working on developing a doctoral dissertation 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 an eligible country by the time of the award, will also be considered.

Language

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

Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Application Guidelines

Selection Process

Eligibility Review

Only applications and references submitted by **January 15, 2027, 11:59 pm EST** through the application portal will be considered. If you are having trouble submitting your application, please review the "Online Application Portal" section of the guidebook and send an email to apdd@ssrc.org if issues persist.

All applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria described in the section "Doctoral Dissertation 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:

- Alignment with the listed thematic priorities.
- 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 within the award timeline.

Every year we receive a competitive 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.

Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Application Requirements

Overview of Requirements

Please review the sections of the Online Application Form on the portal. Components of your application must be submitted through these sections. Detailed instructions for each section listed are provided below:

- Contact and Personal Information
- Academic/Background Information
- Project Information
- Document Upload, including:
    - Draft dissertation proposal
    - Curriculum Vitae (CV)
    - Copy of master's degree
    - Proposed research timeline
    - Proposed research budget
- Two References

Online Application Form

All applications must be uploaded through the SSRC's Online Application Portal.

Refer to the "Online 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 15, 2027, 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 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.
5. Once you submit your application, you will **not** be able to make changes to it. Please review each field carefully prior to submission.

If you experience difficulties uploading a document after repeated troubleshooting, email apdd@ssrc.org to have an APDD team member address the issue.

Contact and Personal Information Section

The Contact and Personal Information section should include your contact details, institutional affiliation, and other requested information, as accurately as possible. You will be asked to provide the following:

- Contact information
- Institutional affiliation and job title at the accredited university where you are enrolled, or will be enrolled in, by the time of the award for your doctoral program

- Faculty position at an institution other than where you are completing your doctoral program (optional)
- Address during the fellowship period

HIGHLY IMPORTANT Under 'Fellowship Type,' applicants must select the correct fellowship award type they are applying for, either as a Doctoral Dissertation 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
- Language Self-Evaluation (optional)
- Previous Awards (optional)
- Biography and Future Plans

Project Information Section

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

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

Additionally, provide details in the following sections about the relevance and anticipated outcomes of your dissertation, and the impact of previous research, being mindful of the word counts and additional information given on the application portal:

- Relationship of the project to the Doctoral Dissertation 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 information would the dissertation contribute to existing knowledge? 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 the 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 apdd@ssrc.org to have an APDD 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. Applicants may opt for the Chicago Manual Style author-date (parenthetical) or notes-bibliography (footnotes/endnotes) for their in-text citations.

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please upload a current copy of your CV that includes a list of your publications, awards received, education history, degree(s), and institution(s) where they were received, and employment history. 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

Include a brief but feasible timeline for six (6) months, from July 2027 to December 2027. The project timeline must be listed by months and not weeks. For instance, July 2027, August 2027, etc.

Proposed Project Budget

Include a brief but feasible budget outline (not detailed, and not exceeding the $3,000 USD allotted amount). ***Please note that budgets must not be below or exceed the fellowship award 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

Items not eligible for funding include:

- University overhead

- Individual or institutional contributions, salary support, social security, or other insurance programs
- Payment on loans, mortgages, other personal indebtedness, or the storage of personal or household effects

Master's Degree Certificate

Please upload a certified or notarized copy of your master's degree. The photocopy must bear an official university stamp.

If the applicant has not received the official copy of their degree, an official letter (with stamp and signature) issued by the university confirming the award of the degree with the award date must be uploaded.

Academic transcripts are NOT accepted.

References

Two (2) references must be submitted with your application. One reference must come from your head of department, dean/director, or a lead supervisor at the institution where you are registered for your doctoral program or studies. The second should be written by a senior academic or practitioner who is familiar with your work and academic interests. Only two references 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.

Please ensure to correctly input the emails of your referees, or they will not receive the instructions for submitting their references. After inputting their name and email, make sure to also click "Send Request Now" so that they are notified. The referees will be notified by email that you have requested a reference. **The applicant should follow up with the referee to ensure the email instructions are received and completed in a timely manner.** If the email is not received, the referee should be advised to check their junk or spam folders before contacting the program for support.

The referee must follow the instructions in the email to complete the reference form and letter online. After your application is submitted, you can check the status of your references by opening the Reference page in the application portal. Once the referee

completes the form, these documents will be automatically added to your application, and the **applicant will receive a confirmation email**.

All references must be submitted by January 15, 2027, 11:59 pm EST.

Reference Form and Confirmation Letter

- Each referee will be required to complete a reference form confirming their relationship with the applicant and the applicant's academic scholarship, research capacity, and professional/interpersonal skills.
- Each referee must also submit a signed confirmation letter certifying that the information provided in the reference form is an accurate and complete evaluation regarding the applicant's scholarship, competence, and project suitability.
- The confirmation letters:
    - Must be written by the specified referee.
    - Must be dated within the period that the application portal is open between **October 14, 2026,** and **January 15, 2027.**
    - Must be submitted on institutional letterhead and bear the referee's signature.
- Both letters cannot be submitted by the same referee.

Do you have questions? Visit the Doctoral Dissertation Frequently Asked Questions to learn answers to common questions.

African Peacebuilding & Developmental Dynamics

SSRC Social Science Research Council

Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship

Doctoral Dissertation Research Eligibility Requirements

Nationality and Residence

All applicants must be African citizens currently residing in an African country for the entirety of the fellowship.

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 Doctoral Dissertation Research applicants are encouraged to submit applications covering a range of issues related to peacebuilding, governance, and developmental dynamics in conflict-affected contexts including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate, Environment, and Resources
    - Climate change, energy transitions, conflict, and peace
    - Conflict: community, national, transboundary, and regional dimensions
    - Food Security, Health, Artificial Intelligence, and Peace
    - Human mobilities, insecurities, and peace
    - Hydro-politics, Conflict, and Peace
    - Politics of Food and Peace
- Justice, Peace, and Regional/International Stakeholders
    - Humanitarian Intervention, Human Rights and Peace
    - Inequality, Conflict and Peace
    - 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
    - Changing Dynamics and Drivers of Natural Resource Conflict, Peace and Security
    - Critical and Precious Minerals, War and Post-War Economies
    - Dimensions of conflict and security: regional, trans-border, national, and interpersonal
    - Diseases, politics, and peace
    - Drivers and Dynamics of Internal Displacement and Migration
    - 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
    - The economic and financial dimensions of peace support operations and post-conflict reconstruction
- Technology, Media, Culture and Arts Artificial
    - Intelligence (AI) and Peacebuilding
    - Cultures, media, and art(s) of peace
    - Digital Ecologies of (Mis)Trust, Disinformation, Online Violence, and Misinformation
    - Generative AI and the ethics of knowledge production and practice of peacebuilding
    - Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Peacebuilding
    - Sports, Development and Peace
    - 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 are not considered eligible.

Stage of Doctoral Dissertation

Applicants for the Doctoral Dissertation Research fellowship must have their proposal and research instruments approved and ethical clearance (if applicable) 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 materials must be submitted in English. In cases where academic degrees or references are in a language other than English, a certified English translation must be uploaded with the degree or reference in a collated single document.

Doctoral Dissertation Research Application Guidelines

Selection Process

Eligibility Review

Only applications submitted by **January 15, 2027, 11:59 pm EST** through the Application Portal will be considered. Two references must be submitted by January 15, 2027, 11:59 pm EST through the Application Portal to have the application considered. If you experience difficulties submitting your application, please review the "Online Application Portal" section of the guidebook and send an email to apdd@ssrc.org if issues persist.

All applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria described in the section "Doctoral Dissertation Research 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:

- Alignment with the listed thematic priorities.
- 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 a competitive 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.

Doctoral Dissertation Research Application Requirements

Overview of Requirements

Please review the sections of the Online Application Form on the portal. Components of your application must be submitted through these sections. Detailed instructions for each section listed are provided below:

- Contact and Personal Information
- Academic/Background Information
- Project Information
- Document Upload, including:
    - Approved dissertation proposal;
    - Approved research instrument(s);

  - Draft dissertation chapter outline;
  - Curriculum Vitae (CV);
  - Copy of highest degree;
  - Letter of enrollment;
  - Proposed research timeline; and,
  - Proposed research budget.
- Two References

Online Application Form

All applications must be uploaded through our Online Application Portal.

Refer to the "Online 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 15, 2027, 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 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.
5. Once you submit your application, you will **not** be able to make changes to it. Please review each field carefully prior to submission.

If you experience difficulties uploading a document after repeated troubleshooting, email apdd@ssrc.org to have an APDD team member address the issue.

Contact and Personal Information Section

The Contact and Personal Information section should include your contact details, institutional affiliation, and other requested information, as accurately as possible. You will be asked to provide the following:

- Contact information
- Institutional affiliation and job title at the accredited university where you are enrolled, or will be enrolled in, by the time of the award for your doctoral program
- Faculty position at an institution other than where you are completing your doctoral program (optional)
- Address during the fellowship period

HIGHLY IMPORTANT Under 'Fellowship Type,' applicants must select the correct fellowship award type they are applying for, either as a Doctoral Dissertation Proposal, Research, or Completion Fellow. **Please review the "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 details requested on your proposed project:

- Dissertation Title
- Abstract
- Place(s) in which you will undertake the project for which you are applying
- Proposed location(s) for research and explanation of why your project requires the stated on-site research
- Keywords

Additionally, provide details in the following sections about the relevance and anticipated outcomes of your dissertation, and impact of previous research, being mindful of the word counts and additional information given on the application portal:

- Relationship of project to the Doctoral Dissertation 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 apdd@ssrc.org to have an APDD team member address the issue.

Approved Dissertation Proposal

The entire approved dissertation proposal must be provided **AND** must include an institutional stamp and authorized signature from your institution clearly stating the proposal has been approved.

Approved Dissertation Research Instruments and Ethical Clearances

Please provide your approved dissertation research instrument(s) including: questionnaire, interview schedule, observation schedule, and/or qualitative coding. The research instruments must also include an institutional stamp or result from your institution stating the instruments have been approved. Additionally, please attach the evidence of ethical clearance approval by the relevant authority.

Outline of 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. Applicants may opt for the Chicago Manual Style author-date (parenthetical) or notes-bibliography (footnotes/endnotes) for their in-text citations.

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please upload a current copy of your CV that includes a list of your publications, awards received, education history, degree(s), and institution(s) where they were received, and employment history. 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.

Degree certificate

Please upload a certified or notarized copy of your Masters, or highest university degree. The photocopy must bear an official university stamp.

If the applicant has not received the official copy of their degree, an official letter (with stamp and signature) issued by the university confirming the award of the degree with the award date must be uploaded.

Academic transcripts are NOT accepted.

Proposed Research Timeline

Include a brief but feasible timeline for twelve (12) months, from July 2027 to June 2028. The project timeline must be listed by months and not weeks. For instance, July 2027, August 2027, etc.

Proposed Project Budget

Include a brief, but feasible budget outline (not detailed, and not exceeding the $12,000 USD allotted amount). ***Please note that budgets must not be below or exceed the fellowship award amount.*** Potential areas of funding include:

- Costs 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

Items not eligible for funding include:

- University overhead
- Individual or institutional contributions, salary support, social security, or other insurance programs.

- Payment on loans, mortgages, other personal indebtedness, or the storage of personal or household effects.

Letter of Enrollment in Doctoral Program

Please upload an official university letter of enrollment into your doctoral program for the current academic year.

References

Two (2) references must be submitted with your application. One reference must come from your lead dissertation supervisor. The second should be written by your head of department or dean/director of your school or faculty at the institution where you are registered for your doctoral program or studies. Only two references 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.

Please ensure to correctly input the emails of your referees, or they will not receive the instructions for submitting their references. After inputting their name and email, make sure to also click "Send Request Now" so that they are notified. The referees will be notified by email that you have requested a reference. **The applicant should follow up with the referee to ensure the email instructions are received and completed in a timely manner.** If the email is not received, the referee should be advised to check their junk or spam folders before contacting the program for support.

The referee must follow the instructions in the email to complete the reference form and letter online. After your application is submitted, you can check the status of your references by opening the Reference page in the application portal. Once the referee completes the form, these documents will be automatically added to your application, and the **applicant will receive a confirmation email**.

All references must be submitted by January 15, 2027, 11:59 pm EST.

Reference Form and Confirmation Letter

- Each referee will be required to complete a reference form confirming their relationship with the applicant and the applicant's research capacity, and professional/interpersonal skills.

- Each referee must also submit a signed confirmation letter certifying that the information provided in the reference form is an accurate and complete evaluation regarding the applicant's scholarship, competence, and project suitability.
- The confirmation letters:
    - Must be written by the specified referee.
    - Must be dated within the period that the application portal is open between **October 14, 2026,** and **January 15, 2027.**
    - Must be submitted on institutional letterhead and bear the referee's signature.
- Both letters cannot be submitted by the same referee.

Do you have questions? Visit the Doctoral Dissertation Frequently Asked Questions to learn answers to common questions.

African Peacebuilding & Developmental Dynamics

SSRC Social Science Research Council

Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Doctoral Dissertation Completion Eligibility Requirements

Nationality and Residence

All applicants must be African citizens currently residing in an African country for the entirety of the fellowship.

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 Doctoral Dissertation Completion applicants are encouraged to submit applications covering a range of issues related to peacebuilding, governance, and developmental dynamics including, but not limited to, the following:

- Climate, Environment, and Resources
    - Climate change, energy transitions, conflict, and peace
    - Conflict: community, national, transboundary, and regional dimensions
    - Food Security, Health, Artificial Intelligence, and Peace
    - Human mobilities, insecurities, and peace
    - Hydro-politics, Conflict, and Peace
    - Politics of Food and Peace
- Justice, Peace, and Regional/International Stakeholders
    - Humanitarian Intervention, Human Rights and Peace
    - Inequality, Conflict and Peace
    - 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
    - Changing Dynamics and Drivers of Natural Resource Conflict, Peace and Security
    - Critical and Precious Minerals, War and Post-War Economies
    - Dimensions of conflict and security: regional, trans-border, national, and interpersonal
    - Diseases, politics, and peace
    - Drivers and Dynamics of Internal Displacement and Migration
    - 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
    - The economic and financial dimensions of peace support operations and post-conflict reconstruction
- Technology, Media, Culture and Arts Artificial
    - Intelligence (AI) and Peacebuilding
    - Cultures, media, and art(s) of peace
    - Digital Ecologies of (Mis)Trust, Disinformation, Online Violence, and Misinformation
    - Generative AI and the ethics of knowledge production and practice of peacebuilding
    - Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Peacebuilding
    - Sports, Development and Peace
    - 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 are not considered eligible.

Stage of Doctoral Dissertation

Applicants for the 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 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.

Doctoral Dissertation Completion Application Guidelines

Selection Process

Eligibility Review

Only applications and references submitted by **January 15, 2027, 11:59 pm EST** through the application portal will be considered. If you are having trouble submitting your application, please review the "Online Application Portal" section of the guidebook and send an email to apdd@ssrc.org if issues persist.

All applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria described in the section "Doctoral Dissertation Completion 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:

- Alignment with the listed thematic priorities.
- 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 a competitive 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.

Doctoral Dissertation Completion Application Requirements

Overview of Requirements

Please review the sections of the Online Application Form on the portal. Components of your application must be submitted through these sections. Detailed instructions for each section listed are provided below:

- Contact and Personal Information
- Academic/Background Information
- Project Information
- Document Upload, including:
    - Online Application Form;
    - Copy of their approved dissertation proposal;
    - Two draft chapters of their doctoral dissertation;
    - Curriculum Vitae (CV);

  - Letter of Enrollment in Doctoral Program;
  - Proposed budget;
  - Proposed timeline; and,
  - Copy of your highest degree.
- Two References

Online Application Form

All applications must be uploaded through our Online Application Portal.

Refer to the "Online 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 15, 2027, 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 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.
5. Once you submit your application, you will **not** be able to make changes to it. Please review each field carefully prior to submission.

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The Contact and Personal Information section should include your contact details, institutional affiliation, and other requested information, as accurately as possible. You will be asked to provide the following:

- Contact information
- Institutional affiliation and job title at the accredited university where you are enrolled, or will be enrolled in, by the time of the award for your doctoral program
- Faculty position at an institution other than where you are completing your doctoral program (optional)
- Address during the fellowship period

HIGHLY IMPORTANT Under 'Fellowship Type,' applicants must select the correct fellowship award type they are applying for, either as a Doctoral Dissertation Proposal, Research, or Completion Fellow. **Please review the "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 details requested on your proposed project:

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

Additionally, provide details in the following sections about the relevance and anticipated outcomes of your dissertation, and the impact of previous research, being mindful of the word counts and additional information given on the application portal:

- Relationship of the project to the Doctoral Dissertation 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 apdd@ssrc.org to have an APDD 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. Applicants may opt for the Chicago Manual Style author-date (parenthetical) or notes-bibliography (footnotes/endnotes) for their in-text citations.

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please upload a current copy of your CV that includes a list of your publications, awards received, education history, degree(s), and institution(s) where they were received, and employment history. 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.

Degree Certificate

Please upload a certified or notarized copy of your highest university degree. The photocopy must bear an official university stamp.

If the applicant has not received the official copy of their degree, an official letter (with stamp and signature) issued by the university confirming the award of the degree with the award date must be uploaded.

Academic transcripts are NOT accepted.

Letter of Enrollment in Doctoral Program

Please upload an official university letter of enrollment into your doctoral program for the current academic year.

Proposed Research Timeline

Include a brief but feasible timeline for up to twelve (12) months, from July 2027 to June 2028, with the possibility of extension. The project timeline must be listed by months and not weeks. For instance, July 2027, August 2027, etc.

Proposed Project Budget

Include a brief, but feasible budget outline (not detailed, and not exceeding the US$8,000 allotted amount). ***Please note that budgets must not be below or exceed the fellowship award 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.

Items not eligible for funding include:

- University overhead
- Individual or institutional contributions, salary support, social security, or other insurance programs.
- Payment on loans, mortgages, other personal indebtedness, or the storage of personal or household effects.

References

Two (2) references must be submitted with your application. One reference must come from your lead dissertation supervisor. The second should be written by your head of department or dean/director of your school or faculty at the institution where you are registered for your doctoral program or studies. Only two references 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.

Please ensure to correctly input the emails of your referees, or they will not receive the instructions for submitting their references. After inputting their name and email, make sure to also click "Send Request Now" so that they are notified. The referees and/or language evaluators will be notified by email that you have requested a reference. If the email is not received, the referee should be advised to check their junk or spam folders before contacting the program for support. The referee must follow the instructions in the email to complete the reference and/or language evaluation form/letter online.

Once submitted, these documents will be automatically added to your application. After your application is submitted, you can check the status of your reference submissions by opening the Reference page in the application portal. **The applicant should follow up with the referee to ensure it is received and replied to in a timely manner. The applicant will receive a confirmation email once the reference is submitted.**

All references must be submitted by January 15, 2027, 11:59 pm EST.

Reference Form and Confirmation Letter

- Each referee will be required to complete a reference form confirming their relationship with the applicant and the applicant's research capacity, and professional/interpersonal skills.
- Each referee must submit a signed confirmation letter certifying that the information provided in the reference form is an accurate and complete evaluation regarding the applicant's scholarship, competence, and project suitability.
- The confirmation letters:
    - Must be written by the specified referee.

    - Must be dated within the period that the application portal is open between **October 14, 2026,** and **January 15, 2027.**
    - Must be submitted on institutional letterhead and bear the referee's signature.
- Both letters cannot be submitted by the same referee.

Do you have questions? Visit the Doctoral Dissertation Frequently Asked Questions to learn answers to common questions.

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