

Application Guidelines for

the Interdisciplinary Fellow Group “The Governance of Energy Transitions in the Global South”

at the Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA)

This IFG aims at developing critical perspectives from the social sciences on the governance of sustainable energy transitions (SETs) in the Global South: What is meant by SET in different Global South contexts? What are the multiple roles that different actors on the ground play to foster SETs? To what extent are local concerns about SETs reflected in international conceptualizations of sustainability and justice? These are some of the questions that the IFG strives to address.

Fellowship Conditions

The programme comprises one scheme directed at junior researchers (completed PhD plus up to six years post-doctoral experience) and one scheme directed at senior researchers (completed PhD plus a minimum of six years post-doctoral research experience or a tenured professorship or equivalent permanent position).

The IFG “The Governance of Energy Transitions in the Global South” supports fellowships of four months duration.

Selected applicants are offered a Senior or Junior Fellowship at MIASA with all the corresponding rights and obligations for the duration of the fellowship. Within the current call for applications, fellowships are awarded for the period between September 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

MIASA will cover the fellow’s salary on the principle of “no loss, no gain”, or the salary of a teaching replacement up to a maximum of a standard wage for a full professor (senior fellowship) or a “research assistant” (junior fellowship). MIASA will provide accommodation and reimburse travel costs. Furthermore, all fellows will receive a monthly allowance of 400 €. In addition, MIASA will provide a research cost contribution that fellows can apply for to support their research undertaken at MIASA (max. 250 €/fellow month).

The Institute provides its fellows with modern office space and an up-to-date infrastructure. Fellows have full access to all library services.

The expectations that accompany a MIASA fellowship include a clear commitment of the researchers to the proposed project, full-time presence at the institute and active participation in the institute’s academic and cultural events. Longer periods of absence require the directors’ approval. These expectations are clearly set out in the fellowship agreement signed by the fellow and MIASA.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible, candidates must fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

- Eligible for application are junior and senior researchers from all countries after completion of their PhD (at the time of the application deadline) in a relevant discipline of the Humanities or the Social Sciences.
- Junior scheme: completed PhD plus up to six years post-doctoral experience at the time of the application deadline (Time off for family or medical reasons or non-academic professional activities is not counted towards these six years)
- Senior scheme: completed PhD plus a minimum of six years post-doctoral research experience or a tenured professorship or equivalent permanent position at the time of the application deadline.
- Applicants must propose a research project that matches the research focus of the IFG on “The Governance of Energy Transitions in the Global South”.
- Applicants must submit the complete application dossier by the specified deadline. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Formatting rules have to be observed. Page limits may not be exceeded.
- The proposal must meet the standards of academic English in international research.

Application

Candidates apply exclusively through the online application portal. The completed application form together with the required documents has to be uploaded on the application webpage (<https://frias.wufoo.com/forms/miasa-ifg-energy-transitions/>) and submitted by **October 15, 2019; 24.00 h CET**. After submission of the documents applicants will receive an acknowledgement of receipt providing contact details and including a copy of their submission.

The following materials (in English) are required to submit the application:

Formatting: font Arial, 11 pt, line spacing 1.5, all margins 2.5 cm.

Page limits may not be exceeded.

All required documents should be in pdf format. Materials 1 – 4 are to be included in one pdf-file.

1. Cover page (max. 1 page).

- a. Title, name (last, first), e-mail address, link to webpage (optional)
- b. Date of doctorate (PhD defense)
- c. Current institution (Name of institution/city/country)
- d. Research field
- e. Project title
- f. The two most important reasons why the research project matches the research focus of the IFG on “Sustainable Energy Transitions in Africa”.

2. Project proposal (max. 6 pages).

The compulsory structure of the project proposal is as follows:

- a. Research field, title and short abstract of the research project.
- b. Aims, theoretical framework and methodology of the project.
- c. Work plan and feasibility (time schedule and projected costs).
- d. Innovative potential, originality and relevance of the project.
- e. Added value of conducting research within the IFG on “Sustainable Energy Transitions in Africa” (both for the applicant and the local research community).
- f. Bibliographical references.

3. CV in tabular form (max. 2 pages).

4. Publication list (in the senior scheme: especially of the last ten years) highlighting the most important publications and the most important project-specific publications (max. 2 pages).

We do not accept applications submitted by email or surface mail.

Selection

The selection of fellows is competitive and strictly merit-based.

The all-important selection criteria are the academic excellence of both the applicant and the project proposal. The fit of the proposed project with the IFG and the required experience and capability to conduct the research project will equally be taken into account.

The selection process involves three steps:

1. Eligibility check: In order to be eligible for application, candidates must fulfil all of the eligibility criteria listed in the eligibility section.
2. Peer review by external experts: in the second stage, the eligible proposals are forwarded to external experts who evaluate the research project and the CV.
3. Final selection by the international MIASA Academic Advisory Board.

Decisions about the fellowships will be announced by the end of March 2020.

The interdisciplinary fellow group will start on September 01, 2020.

Contact

It is recommended that researchers interested in this IFG should please contact the convenors of the group through miasa@ug.edu.gh in advance to preparing an application.

Proviso

This call is published with the proviso that the Federal German Ministry of Research (BMBF) will grant funding for MIASA’s main phase (2020 to 2026).