

## **Application Guidelines for**

# **Funding and Organisation of German-West African Tandem Fellowships**

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

To promote cross-continental dialogue and exchange, MIASA is accepting applications for two tandem fellowships (3-5 months) at the University of Ghana. Two researchers – one from West Africa and one from Germany – will work in a collaborative manner on a particular research topic addressing in one way or another MIASA's overarching aims.

### **Fellowship Conditions**

A German-West African tandem fellowship may include junior researchers (completed PhD plus one to six years post-doctoral experience) and senior researchers (completed PhD plus a minimum of six years post-doctoral research experience or a tenured professorship or equivalent permanent position).

The German- West African tandem fellowship supports fellowships of 3 to 5 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 selection round, fellowships are awarded for the period between January 2021 and December 2021.

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 lecturer (junior fellowship). The fellows' salary costs will be paid directly to his/her home institution. Furthermore, fellows will receive a monthly allowance of 400 €. For fellows affiliated with an African institution at the commencement of the IFG, this monthly allowance will be 1.000 €.

For all fellows MIASA will provide accommodation and reimburse travel costs. To promote the joint research, a shared research cost contribution of 500€/ fellow month, e.g. for conducting field research or organizing a small academic event (e.g. workshop), can be granted upon application to the directorate.

The Institute provides its fellows with modern office space and an up-to-date infrastructure. Fellows have full access to all library services at the University of Ghana, and electronically at the University of Freiburg.

### **MIASA Activities and Responsibilities**

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. A full-time presence of fellows at MIASA for the fellowship period is expected. Periods of leave need to be negotiated with

the MIASA directors prior to the signing of the fellowship agreements, and must not exceed a total of four weeks. These expectations are clearly set out in the fellowship agreement signed by the fellow and MIASA.

These shall include but not be limited to:

### **1. A Weekly Seminar**

The fellows should attend the institute's seminars

### **2. Guest Lecture**

Each fellow must give at least one guest lecture on a relevant postgraduate course in the curriculum of the University of Ghana.

### **3. MIASA Events**

Fellows are expected participate in formal, social and cultural events organized by MIASA.

### **4. Reports**

The fellow must submit a joint final report by the end of the fellowship within 4 weeks within the end of the fellowship period.

### **5. Publications**

The academic results of the tandem fellowship remain the full property of the fellows. However, all publications, presentations, awards and other outputs resulting from the tandem fellowship are required to carry the acknowledgement of MIASA support -- i.e., "Supported by the Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA), University of Ghana and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany" ("MIASA Branding").

To complete the research stay, MIASA expects the fellows to publish their joint research results in at least two academic articles.

The fellows must update MIASA about their output and send to MIASA a digital and hard copy of the output within one month of their publication or presentation. Additionally, the fellows will include MIASA logo and attribution in lectures, seminars, and conferences where they present the results. When presenting at another institute during the fellowship, the fellows are required to mention their current status as a MIASA fellows.

## **Application**

Candidate tandems apply exclusively through the online application portal. Applications will be accepted in English and French. The completed application form together with the required documents has to be uploaded on the application webpage (<https://frias.wufoo.com/forms/miasa-tandem-fellowships-2021/>) and submitted by **April 10, 2020 (extended deadline); 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 four required documents (see 1-4 below) must be written in English or French and formatted as follows:

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. General information (max. 1 page).

For each member of the tandem:

- a. Title, name (last, first), e-mail address, link to webpage (optional)
- b. Date of doctorate (PhD defense)
- c. Current position, institution and business address (Name of institution/city/country)
- d. Research field

2. Fellowship proposal (max. 6 pages).

The mandatory structure of the fellowship proposal is as follows:

- a. Research field, title and short abstract of the work to be done during the fellowship.
- b. Aims, theoretical framework and methodology of scholarly work to be developed during the fellowship.
- c. Work plan and feasibility (time schedule and projected costs).
- d. Innovative potential, originality and relevance of the project to be worked on during the fellowship.
- e. Added value of conducting research at MIASA (both for the applicant and the local research community at the University of Ghana).
- f. Bibliographical references.

3. Short CVs (max. 2 pages per applicant).

4. Publication list highlighting the most important publications and the most important project-specific publications (max. 2 pages per applicant).

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 applicants and the fellowship proposal. Additionally, the required experience and capability to conduct the research project will be taken into account, as well as the fit of the proposed topic with MIASA's priority topics and overall aims, and its contribution to a sustainable research alliance between Africa and Germany.

The selection process involves **three** steps:

1. Eligibility check: In order to be eligible for application, candidates must fulfill all of the eligibility criteria listed in the eligibility section below.
2. Review and final selection by the MIASA Academic Advisory Board.
3. Announcement of the awardees and finalization of the fellowship offer.

Decisions about the fellowships will be announced by mid-May 2020.

## **Eligibility**

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

Eligible for application are tandems of two junior and senior researchers from around the globe in a relevant discipline of the Humanities or the Social Sciences.

- Junior scheme: awarded 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), i.e. applicants for a junior fellowship must have been awarded their PhD on 31 March 2020 or earlier.
- Senior scheme: completed PhD plus a minimum of six years post-doctoral research experience or a tenured faculty position or equivalent permanent position at the time of the application deadline.
- Applicant tandems 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.

## **Contact**

For further details please contact us at MIASA under [miasa@frias.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:miasa@frias.uni-freiburg.de)