

## **Application Guidelines for**

# **Funding and Organisation of a German- African Tandem Fellowship**

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

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

### **Fellowship Conditions**

A German- African tandem fellowship may include junior researchers (completed PhD plus up 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- 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 call for applications, fellowships are awarded for 3 to 5 months in the period between 15 January and 31 July 2022.

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) up to a monthly rate of max. 8.425 EUR or a lecturer (junior fellowship) up to a monthly rate of max. 6.000 EUR. The fellows' salary costs will be paid directly to his/her home institution. External fellows, i.e. fellows from outside the University of Ghana, will, in addition, receive a monthly allowance of max. 675 €, which will be paid directly to them. The exact rates paid depend on the living situation of each fellow and will be negotiated individually.

Non-affiliated fellows, i.e. fellows without current employment, will receive a monthly grant, which will be paid directly to them. Non-affiliated senior fellows receive a monthly grant of max. 2.000 €. Non-affiliated junior fellows will receive a monthly grant of max. 1.200 €. The exact rates paid depend on the living situation of each fellow and will be negotiated individually.

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

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.

### **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. Any periods of absence exceeding 1/6 of the total fellowship period require the directors' approval. 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 must 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 must participate in formal, social and cultural events organized by MIASA.

#### **4. Reports**

The fellows must submit a joint final report by the end of the fellowship.

#### **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 be branded "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 Branding 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/kwrce91135uncd/>) and submitted by, **31 March 2021; 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. Project proposal (max. 6 pages).

The compulsory structure of the project proposal is as follows:

- a. Project title (max. 50 characters)
- b. Abstract of the research project
- c. Aims, theoretical framework and methodology of the project.
- d. Work plan and feasibility (time schedule and projected costs).
- e. Innovative potential, originality and relevance of the project.
- f. The two most important reasons why the research project matches MIASA's umbrella topic of 'sustainable governance'
- g. Added value of conducting collaborative research at MIASA (both for the applicant and the local research community at the University of Ghana).
- h. Bibliographical references.

3. CVs in tabular form (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 research 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 umbrella topic 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 fulfil all of the eligibility criteria listed in the eligibility section below.
2. Review and final selection by the MIASA Academic Advisory Board.

Decisions about the fellowships will be announced by mid-June 2021.

## **Eligibility**

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

- Eligible for application are tandems of two junior and senior researchers after completion of their PhD in a relevant discipline of the Humanities or the Social Sciences who are based at an institution in Africa or in Germany at the time of the application deadline.
  - Junior researcher: 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 researcher: 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.
- 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/ academic French in international research.

## **Contact**

For further details, please contact us at MIASA under [miasa@ug.edu.gh](mailto:miasa@ug.edu.gh)