Social Science Research Council

Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa:
Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship in Peace, Security & Development
2011 — 2012

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

This document outlines the guidelines for applying to the 2011 Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Fellowship **doctoral dissertation completion** competition. Please print this document and refer to it when completing the application.

Information on program parameters, eligibility criteria, and the selection process are available on the program website (http://www.ssrc.org/programs/nextgenafrica/). Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult the site.

Deadline

The application deadline is August 31, 2011. Your application must be received by this date in order to be reviewed. Reference letters must also be received by the deadline.

Eligibility

Before completing the application be sure to read these guidelines carefully as well as the accompanying material on the program website (http://www.ssrc.org/programs/nextgenafrica/). If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please do not hesitate to contact program staff at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC). Program staff may be contacted at nextgenafrica@ssrc.org or at +1-212-377-2700 (ext. 3663) in New York.

All applicants must be citizens of and reside in a sub-Saharan African country while holding a current faculty position at an accredited college or university in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda. Applicants for any of the funding opportunities offered through this program must have a master's degree and be working toward completion of the doctoral degree.

In addition, to be eligible for the $15,000USD **doctoral dissertation completion fellowship** applicants must be in the final year of writing and will have completed at least one dissertation chapter.

Application

The application consists of the following sections:

1. Completed Application Form
2. Completed Autobiographical Sketch and Future Plans (no more than 500 words)
3. Completed Project Proposal (no more than 10 pages), double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font type with one-inch margins on all sides.
4. Completed Bibliography (no more than 2 pages), Times New Roman 12-point font type with one-inch margins on all sides. The Bibliography may be single-spaced but must be in bibliographic format.
5. Reference Letters (2)

The application form is available as a Microsoft Word document (DOC) on the program website, and must be submitted electronically as a word document, or sent in one packet by Air Mail or courier service.

Please note that after being selected fellows must submit additional documents (described below) before award monies will be issued. It is not necessary to submit these documents with the application.

1. A letter from the applicant's home institution (university department or faculty, museum, or other research center), which indicates acceptance of the terms of the award and support for the applicant's project. This letter must be composed on institutional stationery and must be officially stamped and signed.
2. A photocopy of the highest university degree obtained by the applicant. The photocopy must bear an official university stamp.
3. A photocopy of relevant pages of the applicant's passport.
4. A statement, composed and signed by the applicant, declaring that the applicant will work full-time on the project during the fellowship period, forgoing any other employment, consultancy, business, or extended travel away from the site of the project.

All application materials must be submitted in English.

The "Art of Writing Proposals," an article with advice on the construction of a research proposal or project statement, is available on the SSRC website.

Formatting Requirements

- The Project Proposal should be no more than 10 pages.
- The Project Proposal must be double-spaced. Footnotes and endnotes may be single-spaced but must be included within the 10 pages of the Project Proposal.
- The Project Proposal and Bibliography must be in Times New Roman 12-point font type with one-inch margins on all sides. The Bibliography may be single-spaced but must be in bibliographic format (no more than 2 pages).
- Please number the pages of the documents (preferably via the footer function in your word processor). You may number pages consecutively throughout the entire document.
- Your name should appear on the upper right-hand corner of each page.

Project Proposal

Your proposal should be as thorough as possible and written in clear, non-technical prose. It must not exceed ten double-spaced pages and should include the following information:

1. An explicit statement of questions your project asks or hypotheses your project tests.
2. An explicit description and justification of your research methods.
3. A description of the research already completed.
4. A schedule for the writing plan that includes a description of each chapter remaining to be completed and the timeline for completion of each chapter.

Bibliography

The Bibliography should provide an overview of essential references for your project and indicate the key materials being used. The Bibliography cannot be substituted by endnotes. The Bibliography must not exceed two pages and may be single-spaced.

Reference Letters

Two Reference Letters must be submitted by your recommenders. One Reference Letter must come from your principal faculty advisor. The second letter should be from someone who is familiar with your work and academic interests. Only two Reference Letters will be accepted. Any additional letters will be discarded. You may choose to send a copy of your Project Proposal to your referees so that they may evaluate the statement and comment on your ability to carry it out. Please advise them to scan and email their letters to nextgenafrica@ssrc.org.

Reference Letters must be received by August 31, 2011. Please note that it is in your best interest to submit your application in advance of the deadline.

If you have questions about the application process, please consult the FAQs. If your question is not answered there, please contact Program Staff at +1-212-377-2700 (ext. 3663) or nextgenafrica@ssrc.org.

Submission

The application deadline is August 31, 2011. Your application, including the Application Form, Project Proposal, Bibliography, and two Reference Letters must be received by this date in order to be reviewed. Completed applications submitted electronically should be sent to nextgenafrica@ssrc.org. If e-mailing, the Application Form, Project Proposal, and Bibliography should be collated into ONE single Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx) file prior to submission. Please indicate "NextGenAfrica Fellowship" and your surname in the subject line. You will receive an email notification after your application is received. Reference Letters, however, should be scanned and emailed by the recommenders to: nextgenafrica@ssrc.org.

Completed applications can also be sent to us by Air Mail or courier service but must be received by the application deadline of **August 31, 2011**:

Social Science Research Council
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