



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2026-2027 INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

The [Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence](#) at the University of Bayreuth (Germany) invites scholars working in the field of African Studies to apply for fellowships in the [Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies \(BA\)](#), which is part of the Africa Multiple Academy yet to be founded by the five partner organisations of *Africa Multiple*.

Funded through the Excellence Strategy of Germany's federal and state governments since 1st January 2019, the aim of the *Africa Multiple* Cluster is to reconfigure African Studies at conceptual and structural levels. The Cluster is conceived as a transformative space for the systematic study of African and African diasporic ways of life, enabling new forms of inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation.

In the academic year 2026-2027, the *BA* offers fifteen fellowships, divided into the two categories (a) Individual Fellowships and (b) Fellow-Tandems. The fellowships are designed to enable scholars of African Studies, while immersed in a vibrant community of researchers from more than fifteen academic disciplines, to pursue projects significant to the Cluster's theoretical and thematic agendas. Fellows will be in residence for periods ranging **from one to five months**, during which they will carry out their research in an efficiently managed environment with excellent working conditions. To create synergies between fellows and Cluster members, candidates can choose between the winter term (up to five months between 1st October and 28th February) and the summer term (up to four months between 1st April and 31st July).

WHO ARE THE BAYREUTH ACADEMY FELLOWS?

The Bayreuth Academy Fellows are part of an international group of junior and senior scholars – professors, postdoctoral researchers, and doctoral students – affiliated with the *Africa Multiple* Cluster of Excellence to advance research and scholarly debates in African Studies. They will enjoy membership status in the Cluster for the duration of their fellowship. Apart from pursuing their research and engaging in informal exchanges with other Cluster members, Fellow activities include:

- participating in Cluster events while in residence; these include regular Thursday afternoon lectures, seminars, and discussion groups
- presenting a 45-minute talk based on the Fellow's research within the *BA*
- attending occasional social events for Fellows

- submitting during or after the fellowship at least one publication on the fellowship project, if appropriate in a publication outlet of the Cluster of Excellence
- optional participation in one of the BA's [postdoctoral working groups](#)
- offering discussion sessions for doctoral students.

In addition, Fellows are expected to collaborate with Bayreuth-based scholars. One avenue for collaboration is to create synergies with one of the Cluster's six [Research Sections](#). The latter serve as umbrellas for the Cluster's research projects and revolve around specific overarching themes. The six sections are: (a) [Accumulation](#), (b) [Digitalities](#), (c) [Ecologies](#), (d) [In/securities](#), (e) [Re:membering](#), and (f) [Translating](#). We encourage collaboration with individual Cluster members as well, and we are also looking forward to proposals that contribute to the [Cluster agenda](#) in general without relating to a Research Section. Here, we are especially interested in proposals that promise to advance our work on *world (un)making* and the *relational co-constitution of worlds*, and more general the objective of *reconfiguring African Studies* in a broad sense.

Fellows can team up with Fellows and other Cluster members in research groups for joint work on common research interests, or common publications, and are encouraged to publish results of their work in one of the Cluster's outlets.

ELIGIBILITY AND TYPES OF FELLOWSHIPS

(A) INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS

Scholars with a PhD and proven track record in African Studies are eligible to apply. They may come from any discipline in the humanities and the social, technical and natural sciences. Africa-based scholars are particularly encouraged to apply. The duration of the fellowship may range **from one to five months between 1st October 2026 and 28th February 2027 or from one to four months from 1st April to 31st July 2027**; the exact duration will be determined based on the suggestion and availability of the successful applicants and in agreement with the respective academic hosts. During the fellowship period, **residence at the University of Bayreuth is mandatory.**

Fellows will be given workspace in the new African Studies research building on campus and access to the excellent African Studies library holdings at the University of Bayreuth. In terms of remuneration, fellowships include monthly living and mobility allowances that may vary according to the Fellow's employment status and accompanying family members, and travel subsidies. For Fellows whose fellowship term is longer than three months, the fellowship may come in the form of grants to be used for a "teaching buyout" at the Fellow's home institution. Further information on financial provisions is available in the "Financial Regulations" sheet.

(B) FELLOW TANDEMS

In addition to individual fellowships, the BA will fund joint initiatives where applicants form Fellow Tandems. These consist of two applicants (both holding a PhD degree) who aim to work on a common theme during their stay in Bayreuth. At least one of the Fellows must be an Africa-based scholar; members of the Africa-based *Africa Multiple Research Centres* (AMRCs,

the former [African Cluster Centres](#)) are especially welcome. Fellow Tandems are expected to contribute to the Cluster's core topics through at least one joint publication at the end of the fellowship period. Applications for Fellow Tandems should elaborate on the steps to be taken towards this end, which may also include the organization of workshops or the integration of other cooperation partners. Additional funding will be made available for such activities.

HOW TO APPLY

Should you be interested in applying, please begin by reading the information about the Cluster's theoretical and thematic agendas available at https://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/en/1_2-Research/index.html. All proposals must demonstrate the candidate's commitment to the Cluster's aims and objectives and detail the proposed contribution to the Cluster overarching [research agenda](#) and/or to one of the Cluster's [Research Sections](#). The application process is facilitated through an online form that also allows you to upload the required documents. As the fellowship program is an important part of the Cluster's publication strategy, applicants should put a special emphasis on publications resulting from the project pursued during the fellowship.

The application form together with instructions is available at https://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/en/1_1-About-Us/Opportunities/index.html; the closing date is **5th October 2025, 23:59 CEST**.

For further information and questions, please contact the coordinator of the BA, Robert Debusmann: robert.debusmann@uni-bayreuth.de.