



African Academy for Migration Research

Funding Application Guidelines – Completion Grants

The African Academy for Migration Research (AAMR) is committed to strengthening African migration scholarship at all levels (individual, institutional, national, regional and global). To achieve this outcome, the AAMR has set aside dedicated funds to support the completion of doctoral and postdoctoral projects.

These once-off grants will allow emerging scholars to finish projects that have been delayed or complicated as a result of Covid-19. The grants are not intended to cover an entire doctoral and postdoctoral project, but rather supplement existing funding and ensure that PhD students and postdoctoral fellows are not unfairly impacted by the pandemic.

Applications will be assessed competitively based on the strength of the submission and its alignment with the AAMR's objectives. To ensure equitable resource distribution, we invite applications from across the African continent.

This document provides information for African migration scholars interested in applying for a completion grant. Applications that do not adhere to these guidelines will not be accepted.

About the AAMR

The AAMR is funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and is an initiative of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA). It is being implemented and managed by the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS) at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. The ACMS is the ARUA Centre of Excellence for Migration and Mobility.

The AAMR has eight core partners:

- Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique)



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- Makerere University (Uganda)
 - Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (Ethiopia)
 - University of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)
 - University of Cape Town (South Africa)
 - University of Ghana (Ghana)
 - University of the Western Cape (South Africa)
 - University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)

The AAMR has two overarching aims: (1) to build the research capacity of the next generation of African migration scholars (2) to support the professional development of the next generation of African migration scholars. These aims will be achieved through a series of activities, including regional thematic institutes, local workshops and direct funding.

Additional information about the AAMR can be found at www.acms-aamr.org. Stay up to date with AAMR funding and training opportunities by following the #AAMR hashtag on Twitter and Facebook.

Role and purpose of the completion grants

Covid-19 continues to have a huge impact on PhD students and postdoctoral fellows. In recognition of this challenge, the AAMR is offering top-up grants that can support the completion of doctoral or postdoctoral projects. A completion grant is intended to cover late-stage costs related to a project (e.g. finalising fieldwork, writing time and living expenses) and cannot be used in conjunction with other AAMR grants.

Eligibility

Completion grants are open to PhD students and postdoctoral fellows who have reached, or who are near to reaching, the writing stage of their project.

Applicants can be based in any discipline (political science, urban studies, gender studies, sociology, anthropology, public health, etc.) as long as their overall focus is on human mobility.



Note that applications are welcome from scholars at universities not affiliated with the AAMR or ARUA. However, additional financial checks and/or oversight mechanisms may apply to institutions that do not have a formal agreement with the University of the Witwatersrand. Every effort will be made to accommodate strong submissions from non-partner universities. This may involve negotiating alternative payment arrangements.

AAMR is committed to equitable participation and encourages applications from individuals who may be excluded from other grant opportunities or who face additional social barriers.

Length of grant

Completion grants last for 9 months, from November 2021 to June 2022

Amount of grant

Each completion grant is worth GBP 3,000 (roughly equivalent to USD 4,150). Grants will be paid in two tranches: the first will be made in November 2021 and the second one in February 2022. Note that a failure to comply with any grant terms will result in the second payment being withheld.

Number of awards available

The AAMR is offering **10 PhD completion grants** and **5 postdoctoral completion grants**.

What can the grant be used for?

Although it is possible for funds to be used for research activities (e.g. follow-up interviews or checking in with research participants), a completion grant is *not* intended to cover substantial fieldwork costs. Its primary function is to support grantees to produce academic outputs (i.e. finalising their dissertation or writing journal articles).

Outputs and grant requirements

Recipients are required to produce a number of outputs as part of the grant agreement.

PhD students must submit the following by the conclusion of the grant:

- 1 completed dissertation chapter or journal article
- 1 blog post related to their PhD project
- 1 funding report

Postdoctoral fellows must submit the following by the conclusion of the grant:

- 2 completed book chapters or journal articles
- 1 blog post related to the postdoctoral project
- 1 funding report

In addition to the outputs listed above, grantees are required to attend 3 online capacity-building workshops during the course of the grant. These sessions are intended to support grantees during the writing process.

How to apply

Application forms and budget templates can be downloaded from the AAMR website (www.acms-aamr.org) or requested directly via aamr@migration.org.za. All applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from a supervisor/line manager/head of department/head of school, indicating that you have the endorsement of your institution and will be supported to complete your project.

Feedback will be provided to applicants no later than 2 weeks after the closing date.

Important dates

Applications must be submitted by **13 September 2021**. Late applications will not be considered.

Responsibilities of the grant holder

Grantees will be responsible for the following:

- Adhering to the AAMR code of conduct
- Meeting all requirements listed in the grant agreement
- Delivering all outputs as listed in the grant agreement



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- Managing expenses in accordance with the grant agreement
 - Completing a post-grant evaluation and report
 - Submitting all documentation by the dates listed in the grant agreement.

Reporting requirements

A narrative and financial report must be submitted for each and every completion grant. As well as accounting for expenditure, grantees need to provide a summary of activities and how these have contributed towards AAMR's objectives.

Application review process

Applications will be assessed by a review panel comprising representatives from the AAMR core partners. Reviewers will provide individual scores for each application, based on the criteria below:

- The proposed work aligns with AAMR's aims and objectives
- The applicant can demonstrate how and why funds are going to be used
- The applicant has considered further Covid risks and has a contingency plan in place
- The application lists clear, measurable and relevant outputs
- The application aligns with the AAMR's commitment to an equitable distribution of resources.

Individual scores linked to the assessment criteria will be tallied into a combined grade. In cases where multiple applications are graded highly, the review panel will verbally discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each application until consensus is reached.

How to find out more

Additional information about AAMR can be found at www.acms-aamr.org.

Questions or concerns should be sent to aamr@migration.org.za. It is highly recommended that queries are submitted well before the application closing date.