



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2022-2023 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 \(BA\)](#).

Funded through the Excellence Strategy of Germany's federal and state governments since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019, the aim of the Cluster is to reconfigure African Studies at the conceptual and the 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. The BA was founded in 2012 as a space for engaged scholarship and debate in the study of Africa and is now part of the *Africa Multiple* Cluster.

In the academic year 2022-2023, the BA offers up to twenty short- and long-term fellowships, divided into the three categories (a) Individual Fellowships (b) Fellow-Tandems and (c) Fellow Groups. 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, in particular to the general theme of the 2022-23 academic year, *Spatialities* (see further below). Fellows will be in residence for periods ranging **from one to ten months**, during which they will carry out their research in an efficiently managed environment with excellent working conditions. In order to create synergies among fellows as well as between Cluster members and international scholars, we highly encourage the application in tandem or as groups.

### 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 ([Working Papers](#), etc.);
- optional participation in one of the BA's [postdoctoral working groups](#);
- offering of discussion sessions for doctoral students and contributing to existing formats such as summer schools.

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) [Moralities](#), (b) [Knowledge](#)s, (c) [Mobilities](#), (d) [Arts & Aesthetics](#), (e) [Affiliations](#), and (f) [Learning](#). 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 one of our most prominent objectives, the reconfiguration of African Studies in a broad sense.

Particularly welcome are Fellow projects that speak to the annual theme of the 2022-23 academic year, *Spatialities*, e.g., by exploring the multiple spatialities of entangled African lifeworlds. Connecting to debates in critical area studies, the heuristic angle of spatialities invites us to focus on the relational processes of construction and constitution through which 'areas' emerge, change and de-/re-territorialize. Such perspectives help cast a fresh view on African interconnections and the dense presence of Africa in the world as well as of the world in Africa. Other possible synergies with the annual theme may include inter- and transdisciplinary approaches to co-create new imaginaries and innovative productions of multiple social, material, and artistic spaces.

Fellows have the opportunity to 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 'hard' sciences. Africa-based scholars are encouraged to apply. The duration of the fellowship may range **from one to ten months between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and 31<sup>th</sup> July 2023**; 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 or at one of the [African Cluster Centres](#) is mandatory**. A short-term stay as a Fellow at an African Cluster Centre may be granted on request.

Fellows will be given office space 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 long-term Fellows, 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 on the call page indicated below.

### **(B) FELLOW TANDEM**

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 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 workshops or the integration of other cooperation partners. Additional funding will be made available for such activities.

### **(C) FELLOW GROUPS**

The BA further encourages joint initiatives where applicants form Fellow Groups. These consist of a maximum of four members (with PhD degrees) whose projects share a common general theme and theoretical framework. One of the Fellows should be a Bayreuth-based scholar or a scholar from one of the African Cluster Centres that form part of the Cluster. Fellow Groups are expected to make substantial contributions to the Cluster's core topics, leading to at least one joint publication at the end of the fellowship period. Applications for Fellow Groups should elaborate on the steps to be taken towards this end, which may include 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 [www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de](http://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de). All proposals must demonstrate the candidate’s commitment to the Cluster’s aims and objectives and detail the proposed contribution to the Cluster 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 [www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/en/Opportunities](http://www.africamultiple.uni-bayreuth.de/en/Opportunities); the closing date is **20 September 2021, 23:59 CEST**.

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