



STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
STELLENBOSSE INSTITUUT VIR GEVORDERDE NAVORSING

Iso Lomso Fellowships: Call for Applications 2016

Application deadline:
Wednesday, 25 May 2016

Shortlist selection:
15 July 2016

Final selection:
31 August 2016

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Announcing the STIAS *Iso Lomso* Fellowship Programme

Iso Lomso Fellowships provide an exceptional early career opportunity for Africa's brightest minds in academia. Fellows will enjoy:

- a three-year attachment to STIAS during which time they may spend a total of ten months in residence at STIAS to develop and pursue a long-term research programme;
- the possibility of a residency at a sister institute for advanced study in North America, Europe or elsewhere;
- funding to attend up to three international conferences or training workshops anywhere in the world;
- support to convene a workshop with collaborators at STIAS;
- lecturer replacement subsidy for the fellow's home institution during residency periods.

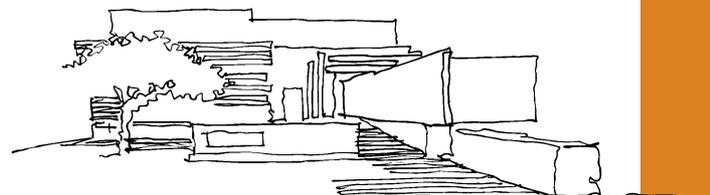
The programme is aimed at African scholars who have obtained a doctoral degree within the preceding eight years and who hold an academic position at a university or research institution anywhere in Africa. Preference will be given to candidates who have established a research programme and have completed a post-doctoral fellowship. All disciplines are considered.

Background: STIAS

The Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study is a high-level research institute dedicated to innovative thinking, the production of new knowledge and the nurturing of emerging leaders. It was established in 1999 as an independent Public Benefit Organization with its own Board of Directors. Over the past sixteen years STIAS has become established as a prime research destination on the continent of Africa.

Its aim is to provide a creative space for the mind where leaders in their respective disciplines can devote their undivided attention to innovative projects of their own choosing, free from the distractions of lecturing and administrative responsibilities.

While it belongs to the family of institutes for advanced study like Princeton, Berlin, Uppsala, Stanford, Harvard, and others, STIAS is distinguished by three aspects: It serves all disciplines, not only the natural sciences, social sciences or the humanities; it concentrates on interdisciplinary discourse and projects; and it has a special focus on Africa.



A CREATIVE SPACE FOR THE MIND

Up to twenty research fellows are hosted at the STIAS Wallenberg Research Centre at any one time. The Institute strives to provide an interface between the global research community and Africa in Africa. It serves as a meeting point not only between North and South, but also between East and West by including projects and fellows from Latin America, Asia and Oceania.

STIAS fellows are expected to be resident at STIAS for the duration of a fellowship, with no academic obligations other than pursuing the proposed research project. The only other duties are to share in the discussion over lunch which is served daily, and to participate in the Thursday STIAS fellows' seminar where fellows in turn present their work to other fellows and invited academics from the local community.

More information about applying for the regular fellows programme at STIAS is available at www.stias.ac.za/application-to-the-stias-programme/

Iso Lomso Programme

As the only comprehensive institute of its kind in Africa, an important priority is to establish and strengthen a culture of research on the continent. It is especially important to nurture a new generation of African scholars to provide the intellectual leadership needed for future development. For this purpose, STIAS has established an early career research fellowship programme called *Iso Lomso*. The literal translation of *Iso Lomso* (isiXhosa) is 'the eye of tomorrow' and connotes seeing into the future, working towards the future, preparing for the future, and laying foundations for tomorrow.

Iso Lomso aims to address the gap that exists between completion of the Ph.D. and becoming an established scholar in Africa. While there is increasing support for doctoral study and for post-doctoral fellowships, it is during the extended post-doctoral period that the greatest loss of talent occurs.

Iso Lomso takes its cue from the ethos and objectives of STIAS. It does not offer an alternative programme to the regular fellows programme, but complements and builds on the proven and successful model of the Institute. It aims at enhancing the existing cross-fertilization of minds by broadening its scope through the inclusion of a younger generation.

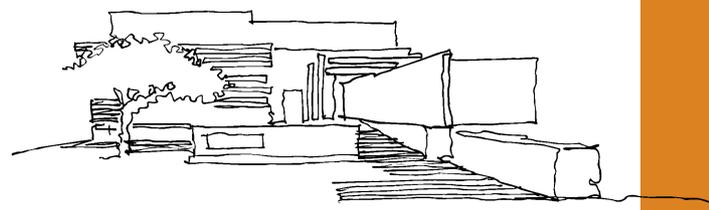
Moreover, the programme will be guided by STIAS's emphasis on interdisciplinary research and its goal of creating research networks within and beyond Africa, thus opening up a creative space for the mind in Africa.

The Fellowship

Iso Lomso fellowships provide a three-year attachment to STIAS to enable fellows to develop and conduct a long-term research programme of their preference. The aim is to guide and support them towards becoming established scholars in their fields.

The main means of support is STIAS residencies. Residential periods will be agreed mutually between the fellow, his or her home institution and STIAS, and may vary between six weeks and five months per residency. A first period of residency will typically be of longer duration to be taken up during 2017, followed by two further residencies during 2018 and 2019. While in residence fellows receive regular STIAS fellow support which includes:

- an economy return flight;
- comfortable accommodation within walking distance from the institute;



- individual offices equipped with a PC, telephone and printer;
- a monthly stipend for daily living costs;
- access to the Stellenbosch University library (including electronic resources) and a fast internet connection;
- participation in the regular STIAS fellows programme, including daily lunch, weekly fellows' seminar, STIAS public lectures and social events;
- a child care subsidy for women fellows accompanied by young children while in residence.

Iso Lomso fellows' home institution will be eligible to apply for a lecturer replacement subsidy during residency periods. This will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis with each home institution after the fellowships have been awarded.

While not in residence at STIAS *Iso Lomso* fellows may apply for a range of research sponsorship interventions during other times of the three-year attachment. These elements will be considered in a flexible manner to ensure that each fits optimally into the research programme. They may include:

- a subsequent residency at a sister institute for advanced study or relevant research institution in North America, Europe or elsewhere (this will form part of the ten months residency allocation; the fellow's preferences for potential host institutions will be considered);
- funding to attend up to three relevant academic conferences or research training events anywhere in the world;
- limited project funding for key interventions in the research programme (basic equipment, research data, field or experimental work)¹;
- the possibility to host a workshop at STIAS together with peers from Africa and abroad (including the possibility of involving regular STIAS fellows) on key matters related to the research programme, as a means of strengthening the fellow's scholarly network and research impact.

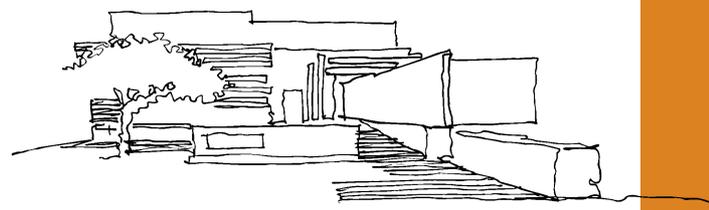
Applicants are encouraged to consider which of these elements they would like to include in the pre-proposal timeline. These elements will be planned and finalised with *Iso Lomso* fellows during their initial period of residency.

Eligibility and selection

To be eligible applicants must:

- be a national of any African country;
- have an affiliation at a research or higher education institution in an African country, and continue to do so for the foreseeable future;
- have obtained a doctoral degree from any recognised higher education institution (worldwide) after the 1st of January 2009;
- be in a position to commence a first period of residency at STIAS during 2017.

¹ Projects that require large research expenses will require proof of existing research funding obtained from another organisation. STIAS does not primarily provide research funding, but rather provides a space for researchers to focus their attention on the project at hand, to meet with other scholars and to participate in an interdisciplinary atmosphere of exchange and academic networking. An *Iso Lomso* fellowship can be undertaken in conjunction with a funded research programme.



For the 2016 call at least three awards will be made. All disciplines will be considered. Applicants from non-Anglophone African countries may conduct their research in the language of preference; however, the application documents must be completed in English. Applications will be evaluated and selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- Level: the applicant's academic excellence and the originality and scholarly strength of the proposed research project;
- Innovation: the project's promise of new insights and the potential to produce new knowledge;
- Interdisciplinarity: whether the project methodology allows for drawing from different disciplines and its potential to facilitate an interdisciplinary discourse;
- Relevance: the project's relevance for scholarship and knowledge production in Africa;
- Feasibility: whether the research design and the research plan are convincing and realistic.

During final selection additional consideration will be given to:

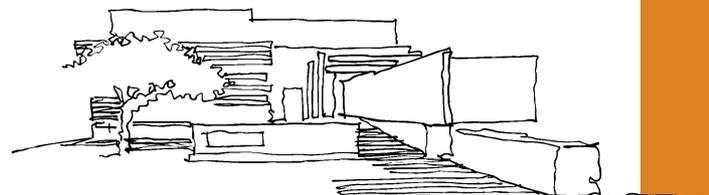
- gender representation;
- diversity of nationalities;
- diversity of disciplines;
- participation in previous or current research projects;
- previous international experience.

Submission of applications

To apply, eligible candidates need to complete the Iso Lomso 2016 Application Form which can be downloaded at www.stias.ac.za/iso-lomso/

The completed application form should be signed, dated and submitted together with:

- A motivational cover letter of not more than one page in length. The letter should include a description of the applicant's academic career, detailing the ideas and experiences that have shaped and motivated his or her intellectual work.
- A pre-proposal for a three-year research project. This is a short essay of two to three pages which provides (i) a summary of the applicant's current research/work, (ii) the main thesis of the proposed research project, including the problem statement and aim of the project, (iii) an overview of existing literature and other sources for the project, (iv) the project's theoretical background and methodological approach, (v) the significance/relevance of the project for African scholarship, and (vi) a provisional time framework with proposed periods of residency at STIAS, additional activities, and research outputs.
- One or two recent writing examples (articles or book sections) related to the proposed project.
- A copy of the applicant's doctoral certificate.
- A letter of support from the applicant's home institution (either from the head of department, dean of faculty, principal of college, or equivalent).
- Two letters of recommendation from scholars who are familiar with the applicant's work, preferably one from the applicant's current home institution and one from another institution. The letter should be



printed on an official institutional letterhead and should include the name of the recommender, the academic position of the recommender, an indication of how long and in what capacity the recommender has known the applicant, and an evaluation of the merit of the applicant's proposed project and ability to complete the proposed work during three years. The letters of recommendation will be confidential and should be sent by the recommender directly to cpauw@sun.ac.za.

Applications may be submitted electronically via email to cpauw@sun.ac.za by the end of Wednesday, 25 May 2016 (Central African Time). For entries by postal service, courier or facsimile, please contact the STIAS Programme Manager in advance by email or telephone to confirm delivery arrangements.

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted during July 2016 for any additional information that may be required about their proposed projects. A final selection will be made by the end of August 2016.

