



AAP AFRICAN FUTURES PROGRAM

Request for Applications from Early Career Researchers

The Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) established the African Futures Research Leadership Program in the Fall 2019 with its inaugural cohort. The competitive program targets **early career female researchers** (ECR) from the nine AAP Member institutions to be jointly supervised by faculty members from MSU and their home institution in research for impact, writing of scholarly and / or policy publications, dissemination of research results and grant proposals. Early career researchers also participate in a structured academic advancement program while building bridges and lasting connections with MSU. They will also participate in the Future Africa Research Leadership Program at the University of Pretoria, which will provide them with training in the areas of thought leadership, team development, research development, engagement and collaboration, whilst also building south-south collaboration with other African researchers.

The main objective of the African Futures Research Leadership Program is to train a cadre of African researchers so they return to their home institutions and become scientific leaders in their community, help solve Africa's challenges, and in turn become trainers of the next generation. A key ingredient is a focus on the home institutions. As such, the African Futures Research Leadership Program expects commitment from home institutions to provide a conducive research environment and dedicated research time for the researchers upon their return home. Early career researchers in the African Futures Research Leadership Program are expected to be a part of an African regional and global web of collaborations connecting to their home institutions. They will be linked to these African and global networks through the MSU and UP experiences and they are expected to nurture these scientific collaborations and relationships.



The AAP Management Team requests applications from early career researchers to participate in the next cohort, with work to begin in Fall 2020. Funding will be provided for the Fellow's research and professional development activities while at MSU and at University of Pretoria. In addition, the researcher will receive a salary and round-trip travel from their home institution.

Potential Research Areas

The early career researcher must select one of the projects indicated [here](#) and commit to working with the MSU Faculty and the Home Institution Mentors for the duration of the program.

ECR Benefits

- Professional development activities – these will center on working with the early career researcher as they join the university, to establish their professional trajectories, to build their research, writing, and publishing skills, and to support them to move through various stages of review, promotion, and growth.
- Leadership activities – these will center on first-hand exposure to academic administration to learn about operations, expectations, opportunities, and challenges related to administrative positions, as well as more general aspects of leadership; personal reflection on one's characteristics and career goals to help determine whether an administrative or other type of leadership role is desired and appropriate. Proposed activities should ultimately lead to potential long-term collaborations between MSU and the partner institution.



- Collaboration networks – the ECR will be co-mentored by an MSU faculty member and a faculty member from their home institution. Each mentor will have the opportunity to visit their counterpart for one week during the duration of the program. The ECR will also gain access to AAP’s broad network of researchers on the continents and beyond.
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Eligibility

1. Citizen of an African country in which AAP operates.
 2. Employed as an Academic staff member with a PhD within the last 3 years at one of the nine AAP African consortium members including Egerton University, Makerere University, University of Dar es Salaam, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Botswana, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, University Cheikh Anta Diop, University of Arts and Humanities, Bamako, and University of Pretoria).
 3. Have documented approval of leave or sabbatical to participate in the program for one year.
 4. Have a mentor at their home institution that will serve as a collaborator and mentor when they return to their home institution;
 5. Research must be in one of the following AAP priority research areas: Agri-food systems; Water, energy and environment; Education; Youth empowerment; Culture; Nutrition and health.
 - Early career researchers may only submit one proposal to AAP in this round of funding.
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Application Requirements

Applicants should provide the following documents as part of their application package:

- An up to date curriculum vitae (CV) that provides a chronological review of their professional accomplishments (up to 5 pages).
- A letter of interest that demonstrates how their own research interest and experience is aligned to the research project of the MSU and home country institution Mentors (2 pages).
- A letter from the mentor at their home institution indicating willingness to serve as a collaborator during the program, travel to MSU for one week of collaboration discussions, and mentor the ECR when they return to their home institution (1 page).
- A written endorsement from the applicants' Head of Department approving one-year leave (1 page).
- A letter of support from the AAP Focal Point indicating awareness of the application from the consortium institution (1 page).

Selection Criteria:

- Professional merit, scientific ability, and potential future career impact (based on CV, letter of interest, and two reference letters).
- Assurance and availability of resources from the home institution for a designated, funded position for the early career researcher upon completion of their fellowship (expressed in letter from head of Dept at the home institution).



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- Commitment to return to their home country following completion of training (expressed in a letter of interest).
 - A selection committee will ensure the best match of outstanding candidates and MSU Faculty Mentor positions. Additional selection factors may include diversity in scientific research areas, and geographic origin.
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Submitting an Application

Applications with required materials should be submitted to aap@msu.edu with subject heading “African Futures Application – Full Name”.

Applications open: February 28th 2020

Application deadline: March 31st 2020

Final selection: April 10th 2020

Expected arrival date: August 15th 2020

Questions

Please contact José Jackson-Malete at jacks184@msu.edu or 517-884-8587 with any questions.