



## African Futures Research Leadership Program Call for MSU Faculty Mentors

The Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) is seeking MSU faculty members to serve as mentors for the third cohort of the AAP African Futures Research Leadership Program. This competitive visiting scholar program supports **early career women researchers** from the ten AAP African member universities to work for one year at MSU under the supervision of mentors from both MSU and their home institution. Scholars will focus on building skills in research for impact, writing scholarly and/or policy publications, disseminating research results, and developing grant proposals. Scholars will also participate in a structured professional development program while building bridges and lasting connections with MSU contacts and across their cohort.

This year, the cohort will be centered on two themes: **global health and climate change**. These priority global challenges require global solutions that are addressed through multiple disciplinary approaches (interdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary) that provide different perspectives on problems, inform comprehensive research questions, develop consensus, and provide innovative solutions. Five scholars will be selected for each theme, allowing for north-south-south research collaborations with other scholars and faculty mentors in the program.

The main objective of the African Futures Research Leadership Program is to train a cadre of African researchers to return to their home institutions and become research leaders in their community, help solve Africa's challenges, and in turn become trainers of the next generation. It is expected that these researchers will sustain their partnerships with MSU into the future as they continue their research careers.

Mentor applicants will submit a proposal that includes a CV, letter of interest, endorsement from their department chair, and a research project overview for potential scholars to review to determine which mentor would be a good fit.

Successful mentor applicants will supervise a scholar over a one-year period at MSU, as well as take part in an exchange visit to the scholar's home institution at the end of the program. Scholars will receive a small grant for their research and professional development activities. Eligible scholars will be current early career faculty members at MSU AAP member institutions who have received their PhD within the past ten years. The scholar will receive a salary during their time at MSU, along with airfare and visa application fees.

## AAP Priority Research Areas

Faculty proposals must be related to one of this year's themes: global health and climate change. As the world continues to grapple with the global pandemic, other health challenges and the effects of climate change, addressing these two themes from multiple disciplinary perspective, will provide a foundation for collaboration among mentors and scholars. AAP encourages faculty from all colleges and disciplines to apply. Proposals must also connect to at least one of the AAP's priority research areas:



## MSU Faculty Mentor Benefits

MSU Faculty Mentors will receive:

- An early career scholar working at MSU for one year to conduct research, publish existing work, and write grant proposals

- A one-week exchange visit at the scholar's home institution to continue research collaboration discussions with the African co-mentor during the program
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## Scholar 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
  - Research leadership activities – these will center on strengthening the depth of research expertise, as well as the breadth of competencies in areas like teamwork, vision and strategic planning, mentoring, communication, etc. so scholars can lead large scale research projects that have impact at a national and international level
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## Eligibility

- MSU faculty member at the Associate or Full Professor Level
  - Experience working in Africa is preferred, but not required. We encourage those who have never worked in Africa but are interested in exploring partnerships to apply
  - Early career researchers will come from one of the 10 [AAP African consortium universities](#) 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, United States International University-Africa, and University of Pretoria.
  - Faculty members may only submit one proposal to AAP for this cohort
  - Proposed activities should be expected to begin **August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**.
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## Evaluation Criteria

Criteria that will be used to evaluate the success of a proposal will include

- Demonstration of the potential for sustainable productive collaboration between MSU and AAP African member institutions around research for impact focused on global health or climate change and within the AAP research priority areas
  - The number and quality of research opportunities involving the early career scholar and mentors from MSU and partner institutions. This could include
    - Scholars' participation in research projects including methodology and techniques applied over the program period
    - Symposia or conferences held to disseminate work stemming from the partnership activities
    - Other measures of early career leadership as proposed by the implementing teams
    - Collaborative grant applications submitted and/or awarded
    - Collaborative scholarly and policy relevant publications submitted or published
  - A draft workplan will be required before the scholar's arrival to MSU in late summer 2022. Mentors will be required to meet with their scholars and home institution mentors virtually prior to their arrival to co-create this workplan and clarify expectations for the program
  - Any data required for joint research should be collected prior to the scholar's arrival at MSU using the funding provided in the program so that scholars have sufficient time for learning new methodologies for data analysis, dissemination of findings and writing grant proposals while at MSU.
  - A detailed program plan outlining how research funds will be spent and scholar's participation in research, professional development, conferences, and program outputs is required within 1 month after program start date
  - A follow-up report will be due six months after the start of the program, along with a final report at the end of the program
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## Proposal Requirements

1. An up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV) of the mentor that provides a chronological review of professional accomplishments including research interests and expertise, mentorship experience (graduate students and postdoctoral fellows), and publications
2. A letter of interest that indicates reasons for applying to be a mentor and how their work is aligned to the goals and vision of the AAP, including how they propose to add value to the research for impact area (1 page)
3. Mentors should have a specific research project to engage the scholar. The proposal should provide a brief overview of the research, publication, or grant proposal writing work that will be conducted and which of the priority areas of

the AAP that will be addressed and the specific work activities that the scholar will be expected to perform (1 page)

4. Written endorsement from the applicant's department chairperson demonstrating support for the MSU faculty member's participation in the African Futures Early Career Research Leadership Program
  5. Headshot to feature alongside proposal description
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## **Selection Criteria:**

Applying to be a mentor does not guarantee selection. The final selection of MSU mentors will be based on merit of the faculty mentor and how well scholar applicants' own expertise and research interests aligns. All potential mentors applying will be showcased on the AAP website for scholar applicants to review and select their preferred mentor as part of their application. The selection committee will then identify mentor/scholar pairs that show the highest professional merit, scientific ability, and potential future career impact.

The selection committee may also consider diversity in scientific research areas, gender, and mentorship experience of the mentor, and geographic origin of the scholar.

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## **Submitting a Proposal**

Submit proposals

here: [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_a42VlvtaNxifP26](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a42VlvtaNxifP26)

*Please note that these deadlines are tentative and subject to change due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions.*

**Call for Faculty Mentors open: December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Call for Faculty Mentors close: February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Call for Applications from Early Career Researchers open: February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Application deadline: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

**Final selection: April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Expected start date: August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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## Questions

Please contact Jose Jackson-Malete at [jacks184@msu.edu](mailto:jacks184@msu.edu) or 517-353-6989 with any questions.