

# International Fellowships for early to mid-Career Urban Scholars from the Global South

## NOTICE REGARDING CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK (COVID-19):

The Urban Studies Foundation strongly suggests that all candidates, mentors and host institutions carefully consider the feasibility of their proposed start dates due to the current coronavirus outbreak.

**Document last updated:** April 2021

## Frequently Asked Questions

Please consult the list of frequently asked questions below before enquiring about this award. Please note that in most cases, the answer to queries can be found in the *Further Particulars* document for this award, which can be found on the [USF website](#).

If you have a question that is not covered in the *Further Particulars* document, or below, then please feel welcome to contact the USF Director of Operations, Joe Shaw: [joe.shaw@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:joe.shaw@glasgow.ac.uk)

## Eligibility

Q) *I have submitted my PhD but am awaiting my viva. Can I apply?*

A) No. Candidates must have fully completed/passed your PhD at the time of application (including viva, post-corrections, etc.). However, please note that this funding scheme typically runs annually, and therefore candidates may be eligible to apply in the following round, and subsequent years.

Q) *I am a national of a country on the qualification list, but I am not currently based in the Global South. Can I apply?*

A) No. Candidates must have an affiliation with a university or research institution based in a country on the qualification list. The award is exclusively intended to provide mobility and opportunities for Global South scholars who live and work in Global South countries.

Q) *Can I apply to be hosted by an institution in the same city or geographical region as my current institution? e.g. my current hometown, another city in my country, etc.*

A) Yes, technically this is allowed. However, it is not recommended to apply to another host institution in the same city for various reasons that should be considered in relation to the *purpose* of the fellowship. In this first instance, the award is intended to provide fellows with an opportunity to undertake a sabbatical period *away* from their home institution, where space and time is guaranteed for them to work on their publication(s). Second, applicants should be identifying the best possible host and mentor for their work, which in most cases is unlikely to be in the same city. Therefore, applying to another institution in the same city should only be done where an exceptionally strong case exists for remaining in the same location.

Q) *Can a period of my fellowship be remote and/or 'virtual'?*

A) No. With reference to the purpose of the fellowship as a visiting sabbatical *away* from the home institution, the fellowship must be based elsewhere for 3-9 months. The USF will not support remote or virtual fellowships.

Q) *Can I name a USF Trustee as a mentor?*

A) No. Candidates cannot, and should not, approach a USF Trustee to act as a mentor, since this is not permitted.

Q) *Can I name a USF Trustee as a referee?*

A) No. The only possible exception to this is where the Trustee in question was a sole PhD supervisor of the candidate, and written permission must be sought in advance from the USF Director of Operations (see contact details above).

Q) *Can the USF recommend eligible mentors or institutions for the fellowship? Is there a list of mentors I can choose from?*

A) No. The candidate must identify suitable mentor and host institution as part of their proposal. The mentor should be working in a very similar field to the candidate and be well qualified for the role. The mentor's letter should also indicate this, as per the *Further Particulars* and *Mentorship Guidelines* documents.

## **Budget**

Q) *Is there a limit on the budget requested, or a template that can be used?*

A) No, there is no formal limit. Candidates must research and provide a reasonable and justified budget with their application (including evidence for any item above GBP 500). Each budget for each global location is likely to vary a lot, and therefore the USF does not set such limits. Please carefully read the *Further Particulars* document for guidance, but please note that the panel will carefully examine each budget to see if it is reasonable and well-justified.

Q) *Can I include computer equipment in the budget?*

A) No, the fellowship cannot be used to fund equipment. Please consult the budget eligibility notes in the *Further Particulars* for this award before applying.

Q) *Can family members travel with me on the fellowship?*

A) Yes, but this is the responsibility of the fellow to arrange and fund. The USF will only consider support costs relating to family members where a strong and justified case for dependent care exists. If such a case exists then candidates should consult the award *Further Particulars* to ensure they understand the eligibility and terms of such funding, and then contact the USF to discuss their case **in advance** of applying. Support for such purposes is also very limited and not guaranteed as part of

an award offer. Please note that such costs should *not* be included in the main budget (instead, candidates should simply check the box indicating that they wish to apply for such funds in the event of being shortlisted).

## **Proposal specifics**

Q) *I am working on research about “x” topic. Is it eligible for the fellowship?*

A) Any research in the broad field of urban studies is eligible. Therefore, candidates should ensure that they are adequately familiar with the wider urban studies discipline (including through relevant publications and journals such as the *Urban Studies Journal*), and be certain that their proposal can clearly be identified (to a significant degree) as urban studies research.

Q) *Can you read/check my proposal, CV, or sample of work prior to applying?*

A) No. Please do not send any materials to the USF to read prior to applying. Candidates should ensure that they have read all the call materials and *Further Particulars* to understand what is required of them in order to apply to this scheme.

Q) *Can my outputs be written in a language other than English? What about my application?*

A) Applications and proposals must be in English, but the output(s) from the fellowship may be in any language as suitable/appropriate.

Q) *Is it possible to get a written sample of what the proposal should look like?*

A) No. Regardless, all proposals are quite different according to the specific application.

Q) *What sort of proposals have been funded in the past?*

A) Profiles for previous International Fellows are available on the USF website. Current fellows can be found [here](#) (About > People > International Fellows), and past fellows can be found [here](#) (About > People > Alumni > International Fellows).