**THE SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES**

**Registered Charity no. 259262**

[www.societyforlibyanstudies.org](http://www.societyforlibyanstudies.org)

**APPLICATIONS FOR NORTH AFRICA POSTDOCTORAL WRITING FELLOWSHIPS**

**Guidance Notes for Applicants**

In 2021, the Society for Libyan Studies is able to offer at least two North Africa Postdoctoral Writing Fellowships that provide **up to £10,000 to support the writing-up of** **already completed research** on North Africa in the humanities and social sciences. The awards are explicitly intended to support early career scholars ordinarily resident in the UK (within eight years of the PhD) who have not yet been appointed to a permanent academic post, who frequently lack the time and resources they need to publish their work.

By providing funds for scholars to dedicate themselves to writing, the Society aims to encourage a new generation of scholars to publish works in the humanities and social sciences that will advance our understanding of the North African region. Disciplines include, but are not limited to: anthropology, archaeology, art history, education, geography, the natural and social sciences, literature, linguistics and political science. Applications are welcomed from those working in the broader North African region (Libya, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Niger, Mali, Chad, Sudan) as well as those which explore connections between North Africa and the Mediterranean or sub-Saharan Africa.

The research/fieldwork that forms the basis of the writing project is expected to be completed at the time of application. Publication should be in the form of **a major journal article or a significant portion of a monograph**, or a combination of these.

The awards are non-renewable and provide **£10,000 of financial support for five months of continuous full-time writing (or longer if held part-time)**. The Fellowship may also be held part-time over a proportionately longer period by those who hold part-time fellowships, academic posts or other employment (0.6 FTE or less) or those who prefer to hold it part-time due to caring responsibilities, disability or health-related reasons. No research funds in addition to the basic stipend are available. Institutional overheads, FEC, or institutional support are not eligible under this scheme.

Fellows will receive mentorship from the Society’s Director or a relevant academic on the Society’s Council throughout the award. This will include meetings to discuss progress of their publication and to advise on preparation of applications for postdoctoral fellowships, research grants, academic and related jobs. The Society will also provide a year’s free membership which among other benefits will allow the recipient to have borrowing rights at SOAS where the Society’s library is housed.

Applicants can apply regardless of institutional affiliation or nationality, but must be ordinarily resident in the UK. They are required to submit an application form (Form D) and their full CV via email to [gensec@societyforlibyanstudies.org](mailto:gensec@societyforlibyanstudies.org) by the deadline of Monday, July 12th; the results will be made available by July 31st at latest; the awardees should commence their fellowships between August 1st and December 31st 2021.

**Eligibility**

Awards are open to early career scholars of any nationality who are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and have not yet been appointed to a permanent academic post. To be ‘**ordinarily resident’** in the UK, you must show that you habitually and normally reside in the UK from choice and for a settled purpose, year after year. Applicants must hold a PhD or have completed their viva by the application deadline. Applicants should be **no more than eight years beyond their PhD** at the time of application, with allowances made for periods of caregiving, illness or other exceptional circumstances. The Fellowship cannot be held alongside a full-time fellowship, academic position or other job. The Fellowship may be held part-time over a proportionately longer period by those who hold part-time fellowships, academic posts or other employment (0.6 FTE or less) or those with caring responsibilities, disability or health-related reasons. Institutional or departmental affiliation is not a requirement.

**Criteria of Evaluation**

The main criteria of evaluation are the quality of the project and its potential contribution to humanities and social science scholarship in the broader North African region. The proposed writing project should be based on well-defined research questions and be of demonstrable significance to important debates in the applicant’s discipline(s). **It is important** **to have realistic goals in relation to the amount of writing** that you will be able to achieve within the five months of the award (or longer if taken part-time). Priority will be given to those applicants that have detailed writing plans (e.g., developed monograph or article outlines), have a book contract or publication agreement in hand or have been in contact with publishers, and show clear evidence of these in their application.

**Referees**

Applicants are required to supply the names and contact details of **ONE referee**, who should be asked to write directly to the Society with an assessment both of the value of the project and of the ability of the applicant to complete it successfully. The referee should normally be the external examiner or a senior colleague in the field from another university or, if not available, someone else who is as external to the applicant as possible. N.B. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the Society receives the reference by the application deadline: no application will be considered in their absence.

**Reporting and Terms**

Awards must be requested from the Society’s Honorary Treasurer, and should normally have commenced by December 31st 2021. Payment will be made in two instalments; the first at the start of the fellowship; the second on receipt of a short report submitted at the end of the second month of the fellowship. A final report (no more than 800 words) will be required at the end of the award. The report should summarize the academic content of the writing that has been accomplished and the stage of your work in the publication process. If your work has already been published, please include full bibliographic details. Awardees will also be asked to give a public lecture on their research either during the award period, or soon after (dates to be agreed with the Society in due course).

**Application Formats**

Applications should be submitted via email no later than the deadline indicated on the Society’s website. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications should include: **(1) the application form** (Form D: see page 3 below); **(2) your** **full CV**, including list of publications if any; **(3)** **contact details of one referee**. Please send all these documents to:

**Pauline Graham, General Secretary, The Society for Libyan Studies  
c/o British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH**

**Tel: +44 (0) 20 3174 2412**

**Email:** [**gensec@societyforlibyanstudies.org**](mailto:gensec@societyforlibyanstudies.org)

**NORTH AFRICA POSTDOCTORAL WRITING FELLOWSHIP**

**FORM D**

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| ***Title of writing project:*** |  |
| ***Abstract of writing project (max 150 words):*** |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Surname of applicant:* |  | | |
| *First name(s) of applicant:* |  | | |
| *Postal address:* |  | | |
| *Email address:* |  | | |
| *Telephone contact no(s).:* |  | | |
| *Date of birth:* |  | *Nationality:* |  |
| *If you are not of British nationality, please confirm that you are normally resident in the UK:* |  | | |
| *Present position or occupation:* |  | | |

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| ***Outline of completed research that forms the basis of the writing project (max. 600 words)****. Clearly specify the research context, aims and objectives of your work, the methodology, and its scholarly relevance within the respective field*. |
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| ***Details of publication and writing-up programme (max. 400 words)****. Clearly specify the details of the envisaged publication (journal article or monograph), whether you have a publication contract or agreement with a publisher, the timescale and what your writing project intends to achieve.* |
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| *Names and contact details of ONE referee:* |  |
| *If you have previously received a grant or award from the Society, please indicate the project name and date:* |  |
| *Please state briefly how you heard about this award scheme:* | (e.g., familiar with Society’s website/policies; web search; departmental contact; other) |
| *Signature and date of application:* |  |