The China Africa Research Initiative at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS-CARI) announces a call for the 2019 round of applications to the SAIS-CARI Fellows program. SAIS-CARI Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis or by invitation to researchers, policy-makers, or journalists who wish to carry out research and write about an under-explored policy issue related to China-Africa engagement related to this year’s theme.

Applicants are expected to have relevant language skills for their projects. They may apply to either (1) spend time in the field conducting new research in China or Africa on a China-Africa policy issue or (2) spend a month at SAIS, leveraging CARI resources – including our extensive proprietary data on Chinese loans, our China Africa faculty, and our location – to work on a China-Africa topic. Any research carried out under the auspices of this program must contain a fieldwork component in China or Africa, which can be separate from this application. All projects must be policy-relevant and based on case studies and fieldwork.

Grants may range from $2,000 to $10,000 per project (max. of $6,000 per individual, $10,000 per two-person team) covering economy flight(s), accommodation and meals, local transportation, and other reasonable research costs.

2019 Theme: Strategic Interests: China, Africa, and the Rest

In this round, we are looking for proposals that focus on China’s strategic interests and how they impact Africa, Africa’s traditional Western partners, or other key actors in Africa. We are particularly interested in research that examines: (1) the development-security nexus, (2) China’s military and maritime engagement in Africa, and (3) the impact of China’s rise on efforts to combat piracy and terrorism; debt distress and economic and political instability; and humanitarian crises. Comparative research is encouraged.

Possible research questions regarding the development-security nexus include: How do the two intersect? How do economic development projects facilitate greater security, and how does greater security provide opportunities for economic development? What are the linkages between China’s economic zones and ports/bases in Africa? How does the intersection of development and security interests in Africa play into the Belt and Road Initiative? What is the role of development projects in conflict zones?
Deliverables

Successful applicants will be expected to produce a working paper (of approximately 10,000 words) for the SAIS-CARI working paper series and/or a policy brief (of no more than 2,000 words) for the SAIS-CARI policy brief series; author guidelines for these will be distributed once Research Fellows are selected. All grantees will also be encouraged to publish their findings in peer-reviewed journals.

Grantees may be invited to present their research at the 2020 SAIS-CARI conference; travel & accommodation for the conference will be separate from these research grants.

Submission Guidelines

- The main part of the proposal should be NO MORE than three pages, single-spaced, including an overview of the research project including brief citations, and a discussion of the methodology and methods of the research.
- The proposal package should also include:
  - a separate list of references cited in the proposal;
  - an up-to-date CV;
  - 1-2 writing samples;
  - the names and professional addresses of two references;
  - a detailed budget (using attached template);
  - a short professional bio (150 words maximum – to be used for CARI publications if your proposal is selected);
  - a recent high-resolution headshot (which may be used for CARI communications if your proposal is selected);
  - a completed information form (see attached).

Time Frame/Important Dates

- Proposals due – 30 November 2018
- Research Fellows selected and informed – 21 December 2018
- Research Period – 1 February 2019 - 30 September 2019

Send your complete application package to sais-cari@jhu.edu by 11:59pm EST on Friday, November 30, 2018, with the email subject line “CARI 2019 Fellowship CFP”.