ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM, SINGAPORE
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP GRANT 2013–14

Call for applications

The Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) invites scholars to apply for fellowships in:

1. Peranakan material culture;
2. Christianity in Asia (up to 1800); and
3. Areas related to the museum's collections in general, including Buddhist studies.

The research fellowships support in-depth original study and writing on specialised aspects of Asian culture. Applications will be screened by a committee of curators and scholars.

Guidelines for award

I. Research proposal

The research proposal should be no more than 2,000 words. It should clearly outline the area of study and justify how the proposal is relevant to the field, the ACM, and the researcher's own work. If this proposal is part of a larger project or a collaborative work with another scholar or institution, this should be explained in the application.

We prize multi-disciplinary work, cross-cultural studies, and research on ongoing projects at the ACM. The geographical areas of research should be Southeast Asia, South Asia, China, or the Islamic world.

II. Eligibility

Applicants should have a PhD or be in the final stages of their dissertation. In addition, applicants with equivalent research qualifications and experience will be considered. Applicants should have completed the bulk of their field work on their proposed project, and be able to write and present papers in English.

III. Stipend

The monthly stipend is S$5,000. Overseas researchers are offered a one-time grant of S$3,000 as a relocation allowance.

Research fellows are liable for local taxes according to Singapore's tax regulations. Please refer to the FAQ section.

IV. Award period and length of fellowship

The standard duration of the fellowship is nine months (academic year). Candidates may also apply for a period of one semester (four months) or periods as short as one month. In exceptional cases the fellowship may be extended for a second academic year.

The start and finish of the award period is flexible, though successful candidates are expected to commence their fellowships within 2013.

V. Duties of the Research Fellow

Research fellows are required to spend most of their time in the ACM or at libraries and research facilities in Singapore. They should participate in the museum's programmes and interact with curators and other staff.

Research fellows should present a lecture based on their work in progress and lead a seminar. At the end of the fellowship period, research fellows will present a detailed report of their findings.

VI. Selection process and criteria

Applications will be evaluated for their originality, creativity, and how the proposed projects bear upon the annual themes as well as their connection with the ACM's collections. In general, applicants may not hold another grant during the period of the ACM fellowship.

Application instructions

I. Electronic applications should be submitted to nhb_acm_rpu@nhb.gov.sg. Attachments should not exceed 10MB.

II. The application package should include:
   A. Completed application form
   B. Research proposal
   C. Proof of completion of a doctoral degree (if a PhD candidate, proof of completion of the more important degree)
   D. Recommendations from two referees in support of the application and research proposal. Referee should state how long and in what capacity he/she has known the applicant and evaluate the scholarly merit of the proposed research project, as well as the applicant's research potential. Referees can also send the letters directly to nhb_acm_rpu@nhb.gov.sg
   E. A writing sample or copy of a chapter of the dissertation in English.

III. Candidates will receive email acknowledgements of the receipt of their applications. They will be informed of the results by early February 2013.

Applications close on 1 January 2013.

Incomplete and late applications will be disqualified.

For enquiries, please contact the Research Unit at nhb_acm_rpu@nhb.gov.sg or 65-6332-7992.

Frequently Asked Questions

How may I learn more about the ACM collection?
The ACM published parts of its collection in The *Asian Civilisations Museum: A-Z Guide* in 2003 (reprinted 2006). A similar guide to the Peranakan Museum was published in 2008. Various exhibition catalogues highlight specific areas of the collection as well. The website http://www.sgcool.sg presents over 12,000 objects from the collection of the ACM, although this is not comprehensive.

What are the resources in Singapore available for my research?
The ACM offers the use of its library and collection as the primary resources to the scholar. The ACM also has interlibrary loan arrangements with the National Library of Singapore (http://catalogue.nlb.gov.sg) and with the libraries of the National University of Singapore (http://www.linc.nus.edu.sg) and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (http://www.iseas.edu.sg/library.html).

Will airfare be covered?
Overseas scholars will receive a one-time relocation allowance of S$3,000, which includes airfare allowance. This relocation allowance will be given to the research fellow within the first week after the start of the fellowship.

Is accommodation provided on top of the stipend?
Accommodation is not provided. The stipend amount goes towards all discretionary expenses in Singapore, including accommodation, meals, local transport, medical insurance, etc. Stipends will be paid within seven days after the end of each completed month.

Does ACM provide hostel accommodation?
The ACM does not provide hostel accommodation. Research fellows are responsible for arranging their own accommodation.

May I ship my belongings to ACM?
ACM does not accept personal belongings and cannot be liable for them.

Do I need a special visa to enter Singapore?
Visitors from most countries do not need a special visa to enter Singapore, except for the countries listed on the website of the Singapore Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (http://www.ica.gov.sg/services_centre_overview.aspx?pageid=252&secid=165). The Singapore tourist visa is for thirty days; within thirty days the research fellow will receive an employment pass.

When should I travel to Singapore in the event that I am awarded the fellowship?
Once the candidate is informed of his/her successful application, the National Heritage Board will arrange for the employment pass. As the award is subject to the successful application of the employment pass, it is not advisable for the research fellow to travel to Singapore until the employment pass is granted. Research fellows will be informed when the employment pass has been obtained, and at that time they can start making their travel arrangements.

Will I be taxed on the stipend?
Yes, research fellows are held liable to pay local taxes according to tax regulations in Singapore. The stipend for the final month will be withheld for a period of thirty days for taxation purposes. The withheld amount after taxes, will be returned to the research fellow after tax clearance from the local tax authority, the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS). Please refer to the website of IRAS for more information: http://www.iras.gov.sg/irasHome/page04.aspx?id=1190.