11 September 2025

**RESEARCH DIVISION COMMUNIQUÉ**

CALL FOR APPLICATION: ARUA EARLY – CAREER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP 2025

Dear Staff

**PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DEADLINE – DECEMBER 2025**

Applications should be submitted via the online submission portal (<https://arua.org/early-career-research-fellowships-2025/>).

**BACKGROUND**

ARUA has established thirteen (13) Centres of Excellence (CoEs) across various disciplines to support its vision. These CoEs reflect the current priority areas of ARUA, and they are expected to significantly enhance research and graduate training. Currently, the CoEs are organized as follows:

**Natural Sciences:**

* Water
* Energy
* Non-Communicable Diseases
* Materials, Energy and Nanotechnology
* Climate and Development
* Sustainable Food Systems

**Humanities**

* Post-Conflict Societies
* Good Governance
* Inequality Research (ACEIR)
* Migration and Mobility
* Notions of Identity in Africa
* Unemployment and Skills Development
* Urbanization and Habitable Cities.

Together with The Guild of European Research Universities, ARUA has also established twenty-one (21) Clusters of Research Excellence (Africa-Europe CoREs) to align with priority themes of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Cover letter** outlining your reasons for applying for the position and details of how you will achieve the roles and responsibilities of the position (*see section 3*). This should include an overview of your experience in the relevant field and how you meet the eligibility criteria. The candidate must specify the particular ARUA CoE or Africa-Europe CoRE to which they are applying. If an applicant has previously spent time at the proposed CoE or CoRE (e.g., as a student, postdoc, etc.), the cover letter should include a motivation for how this visit will build on the pre-existing relationship. *Applicants may also suggest potential supervisors whom they may have already contacted.* Applicants should also outline if they require a visa to visit the host or an affiliated institution of the CoE or CoRE and, if so, what is required and the estimated processing time.
2. **Full CV**, including applicant details (e.g., date of birth, passport number, country of origin, citizenship, etc.), particulars of doctoral degree, qualifications obtained, research output, a description of the applicant’s contribution in jointly authored publications, and details of two referees. In the case of shortlisted applicants, applicants will be required to ask the referees to submit a brief report assessing the applicant’s suitability for the fellowship. Referees should not be based at the proposed host CoE or CoRE.
3. **A Letter of Support** from the applicant’s permanent/home institution, including an indication of suitability for the position and that the candidate will return to the home institution.
4. Evidence of the **Award of PhD.**
5. **A Brief Concept Note** (max. 1,500 words, including references) outlining your proposed research project/plan and its alignment with the ambitions of the host CoE or CoRE. Candidates who can demonstrate that they possess the necessary data or research materials to support their role will have a significant advantage.
6. **Two (2) academic writing** examples. This should not be a chapter from a doctoral thesis. In the case of a jointly authored piece, you should describe your contribution.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

* Applicants must be African nationals who have a PhD in a discipline/sub-discipline related to the thematic area of the Centre of Excellence or Cluster of Research Excellence.
* Applicants must be within 5 years of completing their PhD,
* Applicants should be young faculty (or research) members at an ARUA university. Female postdoctoral fellows will be considered in limited cases.
* The applicant should not be more than 35 years old at the time of applying.
* Applicants should have a highly competitive track record relevant to the opportunity and be willing to develop a strong international standing and research reputation.
* Applicants must be available to spend 6 months away from their home university and be able to return to their home institution.
* Applicant must be working on an ongoing project related to the CoE or CoRE and have readily available data to accomplish the main roles and responsibilities (see section 3)
* Eligible women are strongly encouraged to apply. ***At least 70% of the fellowships will be awarded to female candidates***

**Issued by the University Research Division**