



Call for Applications

Fellowships for African Scholars in Peace, Security and Development (Degree-Awarding)

Including

MSc Global Leadership and Peacebuilding

About the ALC

Established in 2010, the African Leadership Centre (ALC) seeks to build an inter-generational community of transformative leaders producing cutting-edge knowledge that serves as a catalyst for a new peace, security and development agenda in Africa. To this effect, the Centre produces and deploys multi-dimensional forms of knowledge, builds an inter-generational community of value driven leaders, facilitates a catalytical ‘public square’ to set a new agenda for Africa, and enhances the ALC Hub to produce and manage knowledges. The Centre pursues its vision of building an inter-generational community of value driven transformative leaders from its bases in Nairobi, Kenya and King’s College, London.

Core Values: The ALC’s programmes are guided by a commitment to promoting African-led ideas and processes of change, pursuing excellence, encouraging independent thinking, respecting diversity in all its forms—including gender, religion, class, and beliefs—recognizing youth agency, and upholding integrity.

About this Fellowship

This award is designed for young African scholars passionate about a career in leadership, security, and development, to impact discourse and practice in these areas.

- Spanning eighteen months, this fellowship combines rigorous academic research, impactful writing, and policy analysis on leadership, security, and development issues, culminating in a six-month attachment at a leading African university, regional organization, or Centre of Excellence on the continent.
- This programme uses modalities of learning that integrate a master's programme on Global Leadership and Peacebuilding at King's College London with a uniquely tailored mentoring programme—comprising numerous group mentoring sessions, simulation practices, one-on-one and peer-to-peer mentoring sessions, institutional visits, and attachment.
- Upon completion, fellows emerge with academic knowledge, research skills, mentorship training, and practical experience, connected to a network of distinguished African experts in peace, security, and development to take part in setting a new peace, security and development agenda for Africa.

Eligibility

- Candidates must be able to demonstrate the following values during all phases of the programme: **promoting African led ideas and processes of change; independent thinking; integrity; pursuit of excellence; recognition of youth agency; and respect for diversity in all its forms.**
- Candidates must have citizenship in an African country.
- Successful candidates must hold valid travel documents prior to acceptance.
- Candidates must hold a master's or bachelor's degree with an equivalent level of professional experience.
- The fellowship is open to junior faculty members based in universities in Africa from departments of political science; international relations; history, law, development studies, peace, security and conflict studies, and related departments.
- Candidates need to demonstrate an interest in pursuing careers in the field of peace, security and development. Previous study or engagement with the issues of security and development is not required. However, candidates must demonstrate a basic familiarity with these issues.
- Candidates must additionally be able to demonstrate the capacity to undertake research on issues relating to peace and security in Africa.

- Candidates will be expected to have a clear plan on how to utilise knowledge gained in the Fellowship upon returning to their countries and academic institutions.
- If offered the Fellowship, candidates should secure unconditional acceptance into the MSc in global Leadership and Peacebuilding at King`s College London by the University`s deadline. Please note that for most African students **passing an English Language Proficiency Test is mandatory to gain unconditional acceptance to the MSc Programmeme at King`s College London.**

Programmeme Delivery

The Programme is delivered in two phases:

Phase 1:

The first phase consists of a 12-month training programme based at King`s College London. This phase will include regular group mentoring sessions with renowned academics, policy analysts, and practitioners. It will also feature a taught master`s programme in Global Leadership and Peacebuilding, delivered at King`s College London. For much of this phase, Fellows will be based at King`s College London. Additionally, Fellows will spend short periods at the African Leadership Centre in Nairobi, where they will undertake research and produce research papers on peace, security, and development in Africa.

Institutional Visits:

During the 12-month period at King`s College London, Fellows will visit academic, policy, and research institutions focused on issues of peace, security, and development.

Phase 2:

In the second phase, Fellows will be attached to select partner universities in Africa for 6 months. During this time, Fellows will serve as faculty members, contributing to academic and policy research among other activities. This phase is designed to promote the sharing and exchange of ideas on topics explored during the first phase of the programme.

Research Project:

During Phase 2, Fellows will also conduct a research project on a critical aspect of peace, security, and development, producing a policy brief. This output will be published and shared through relevant policy platforms and publication outlets.

Mentoring:

Throughout both phases, Fellows will have access to the programme's network of mentors through regular group mentoring and training on key thematic issues. One-on-one mentoring sessions will also be encouraged to guide Fellows through the programme.

Terms of the Fellowship

1. Application to King's College London:

In addition to applying for this fellowship through the link provided in the 'How to Apply' section below, applicants must also secure unconditional acceptance for the full-time **MSc programme in Global Leadership and Peacebuilding**. Please note that for most applicants from African countries, an English Language Proficiency Test is required to gain unconditional acceptance to the MSc programme. Details of the MSc Global Leadership and Peacebuilding can be found [here](#).

2. Student Visas:

The offer of a place on the programme depends on successful candidates obtaining a student visa. To obtain a student visa, potential candidates must be unconditionally accepted for the MSc Global Leadership and Peacebuilding. Responsibility for processing and financing all visa applications rests solely with successful candidates, though the ALC and King's College London will provide necessary documentation as needed.

3. Expectant/Nursing Mothers:

Given the intense nature of the programme—including its short phases in different locations and extensive travel—successful applicants who are expectant or nursing mothers, while encouraged to apply, will be advised to defer their admission to the programme.

4. Medical Exam:

Successful applicants must undergo medical examinations at recommended venues prior to taking up their positions, to support visa applications and confirm fitness for undertaking the programme.

5. Programme Completion/Return to Base:

The programme lasts a total of 18 months. Fellows are expected to make full-time commitments to the programme, and with the completion of the programme return to their base or home countries.

Funding

This is a fully funded opportunity, excluding visa application and processing costs. Funds will cover tuition, subsistence in the UK and Africa, accommodation, research-related costs, and all travel expenses related to the programme.¹ However, successful applicants must arrange their own accommodation in both the UK and Africa.

Termination

The African Leadership Centre, jointly with King's College London and the University of Nairobi, reserves the right to terminate the conferral of a Fellowship if the Terms and Conditions of the programme are breached.

How to Apply for this Fellowship Programme:

Applicants interested in this fellowship programme **should apply for both** the fellowship and the MSc Programme as per the guideline below.

1. Fellowship Application:

- Submit your application online [here](#).
- Deadline: 18 May 2025.
- Steps:
 - Register on the ALC application portal [here](#).
 - Log in and follow the instructions to complete and submit your application.
 - The system will guide you throughout the process.

2. MSc in Global Leadership and Peacebuilding Application:

- Apply through the King's application portal [here](#).

¹ Please note that the funds are intended for individual Fellows only. Funds do not cover dependents and are not intended to support family members.

- When selecting your programme, choose **Peace & Security Fellowship** (not MSc in Global Leadership and Peacebuilding).
- Deadline 18 May 2025
- Steps:
 - Register on the King's application portal [here](#).
 - Log in and complete all required steps to submit your application.

Before you begin your application, please take time to carefully go through the online application guidance [available here](#).

The following documents are required before your application is considered complete:

- A fully completed application questionnaire on the online application system.
- A supporting statement of 500 to 750 words—outlining why you want to join this programme, what unique contribution you would bring, and what change you envision contributing to in your community or area of work after the programme.
- Two letters of recommendation (to be received directly from your referees by the deadline of **18 May 2025, 23:59 hrs EAT**).
- A recent curriculum vitae, maximum 2 pages.
- One writing sample (**maximum 1000 words**—examples include an original research paper, extracts from a dissertation, an essay, or a policy paper relevant to peace and security).
- One research proposal of no more than **1000 words** – Donald Trump's second election as US president has shaken up the global order, speeding up changes already in motion. His win altered how the US views the Russia-Ukraine war's causes and possible end, as well as its approach to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. More importantly for this project, it overhauled the ways the US supports countries dealing with conflict and chaos, including in Africa. These changes have sparked heated arguments about what they mean for the continent. Some experts see a silver lining, suggesting Africa could grow stronger by relying less on outside help and building its own solutions. Others warn the shift is so fast that millions might suffer before African societies can stand on their own. As a future

ALC Peace, Security and Development Fellow, your job is to design a research project exploring how Trump's election affects Africa. Write a 1000-word research proposal explaining your plan, zooming in on one of these angles: (i) How it changes gender relations across Africa; (ii) How it affects ties between citizens—especially young people—and their governments; (iii) How it shifts global or African norms and frameworks used to deal with crises and governance in the continent; (iv) How African leaders will tackle the challenges brought by Trump's election. **(1000 words max)**.

Submission Guidelines

Submit these documents when prompted during the application process using the links provided above. If you encounter issues with the online application portal, contact us at admissions@africanleadershipcentre.org. We urge all applicants to submit early to avoid delays or technical difficulties that could prevent submission.