

## **ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS**

**2009-10**

### **Call for Applications and Guidelines**

#### **ACM Research Fellowships:**

The Research and Publications Unit (RPU) of the Asian Civilisations Museum is pleased to announce its inaugural fellowship grant. The applications will be screened by a committee of eminent scholars and will be administered by the RPU.

#### **Background:**

One of the stated aims/objectives of the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) for many years has been to be a centre of research in Asian cultures and arts. Since its opening at the Empress Place in 2003, the ACM has established a reputation in the international museum arena for its excellent gallery displays and exhibitions. The ACM is undertaking to develop its research potential in the field of Asian archaeology, art history and material culture, so as to become the regional hub synonymous with excellent research projects and publications in the field. The research fellowships are planned to generate in-depth study, documentation and thought leading publications on specialised aspects of Asian cultures.

#### **Scope:**

The geographical scope of the research should be in the areas of Southeast, South, East and West Asia or the Islamic world. The focus of research may be anthropological, art historical, archaeological, artistic or theoretical. Research related to the collections at the ACM would be an advantage. The ACM offers the use of its library and collection as the primary resource besides other field based resources which the scholars will identify for their research.

**Guideline for Award:**

ACM invites scholars to apply for a one year fellowship based on their previous work in the area. This year, the focus of research will be Buddhist Art and Iconography and Ramayana. The grants will be awarded to two scholars who can contribute to ACM's publications, conferences and research projects and investigate a new area in a related field. The Research Fellow is required to submit a report and publication worthy articles, chapters or book at the end of the fellowship period. This paper/ chapters or book will be copyrighted to the ACM and ACM reserves the right to repackage the material in its own publications. The material produced may be used by the ACM in print form physically, on-line or digitally. Any footage or images taken during the research period will also be copyrighted to the ACM. When published by the author, these images or footage must be duly acknowledged to the ACM.

**Types of Fellowships:****I Senior Research Fellowship**

Applicant to this category should have more than 15 years of continuous experience in the field of Asian art and culture, obtained Ph.D. and published well researched journal articles and reputed books.( For the coming year, this fellowship is not being offered.)

**II Junior Research Fellowship**

Applicant to this category should have just completed field work/investigation and be in the process of finalising their dissertation. The topic of investigation that aligns with the research focus or the collection focus of the ACM would be an advantage.

**Stipend:**

A stipend of \$ 3000 per month will be provided to the junior fellows and \$4000 to the senior fellows which also covers accommodation. For overseas scholars,

cost of relocation and airfare will be capped at a total of \$3,000 as one off payment. The stipends are tax deductible.

**Selection Process and Criteria:**

The applications will be screened by a committee comprising of experts who will evaluate the application in conjunction with the scope of research identified by the ACM for that year. Originality of the research, creativity, relation to already existing research on the same topic as well as newness of the area of research and methodology will be taken into account. Potential scholarly product and adaptability of the findings, investigator's qualifications, multi-disciplinary nature of the research topic would be some of the criteria. The committee will recommend the selected applicants for the final approval of the CEO/NHB ( National Heritage Board).

**Award period:**

The award period will be from April 2009 - March 2010.

**Reporting:**

Research fellows are required to spend 75% of their time in the ACM premises, unless they are traveling for documentation or reference work within Singapore or abroad. Research Fellows will share their findings through monthly progress reports and regular seminars as well as by publishing articles in reputable journals on their research. Compliance with the above criteria will be monitored and failure to comply will lead to termination of the fellowship. They will also help with organizing the RPU annual conference and any other duty related to the unit by the DD/RPU. At the end of the fellowship period, Research Fellows will produce a detailed report of findings, methodologies and challenges and present this to the management of the ACM within 1 month of the end date. They will prepare reports at the end of the fellowship period with detailed findings that can be deposited at the ACM's resource library.

**Extension:**

Funding will cease at the end of the fellowship period. Non grant extension will be given provided sufficient reasons are cited and a plan of action for completion of the work is submitted and approved.

**Proposal Submission:**

Application format:

An application clearly stating the title, area of investigation, proposed methodology as well as possible conclusions/hypotheses must be submitted to the office of the Research and Publications, ACM or via e-mail to [nhb\\_acm\\_mcv@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:nhb_acm_mcv@nhb.gov.sg) with the 'Application for Research Fellowship' as the subject.

Project Title:

Title of the project with a short abstract explaining its scope should be submitted.

Project Narrative:

The project narrative of 2000 words( font - Arial, line spacing -1.5) or more, must contain substantial justification of how such a project would be relevant to the field, the ACM as well as to the researcher's scope of work. A proposed methodology as well as proposed scope of research to be covered within this year should be clearly stated. If this proposal is part of a larger project or a collaborative work with another scholar or institution, then the entire scope should be clearly explained in the application.

Referee:

Please submit two referees' recommendations in support of your application and project narrative.

**Application form:**

Name:

Address:

Contact details:

Nationality:

Educational Qualifications:

**Proposal closing Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009 (for award in April 2009)**

**Contact Us:**

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