

**ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM  
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP GRANT 2010-2011  
Call for Applications and Guidelines**

**ACM Research Fellowship Grant**

The Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) in Singapore invites scholars specialising in Indian Trade Textiles for Southeast Asia to apply for a 12-month research fellowship. The textile research will focus on carbon dating of some of ACM's trade textile collection, dye research and scientific analysis of the textiles. The applications will be screened by a committee of eminent scholars and will be administered by the Research and Publication Unit (RPU) of ACM.

**Background**

The research fellowships were first offered in 2009. They are planned to generate in-depth study, documentation and thought leading publications on specialised aspects of Asian cultures. This is in line with the aim of the ACM 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.

**Guidelines for Award**

I. Research focus for 2010-11

The ACM invites scholars to apply for a one year fellowship based on their work in the area of Indian Trade Textiles for Southeast Asia. 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 ACM reserves the right not to award fellowships unless there are candidates of merit.

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.

II. Eligibility

Applicants should have completed their field work. They should either be in the process of finalising their dissertations or have completed their PhDs. The topic of investigation that aligns with the research focus or the collection focus of the ACM would be an advantage.

III. Stipend

A stipend of \$3,500 per month will be provided to the fellows. For overseas scholars, cost of relocation and airfare will be capped at a total of \$3,000 as one off payment.

Research fellows are held liable for local taxes according to tax regulations in Singapore. Please refer to the FAQ section on page 6 for more information.

IV. Award period

The award period for the 2010-11 fellowships will commence from June 2010 through May 2011. The ACM research fellowship grant may not be deferred. However the award period is subjected to the successful application of relevant employment permits and medical test as required.

V. Duties of the Research Fellow

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 are required to submit a report and publication worthy articles, chapters or book by 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.

Research fellows will share their research findings through public seminars and monthly progress reports.

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. They will prepare reports with detailed findings that can be deposited at the ACM's resource library.

They will also help with organising the RPU annual conference and any other duty related to the unit by the Deputy Director of RPU.

Compliance with the above criteria will be monitored and failure to comply will lead to termination of the fellowship.

VI. 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 of the National Heritage Board. Successful applicants may not be the recipient of other fellowships, scholarships, or other forms of financial aid, at the same time that they are holding the ACM research fellowship position.

VII. 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.

**Application Instructions**

Applications should be submitted in hard and soft copy.

- I. The hard copy application package should include:
  - A. Application form (see below)
  - B. Copy of official transcripts of academic records from each university attended
  - C. Research proposal of no more than 2000 words (Arial font with 1.5 line spacing) stating clearly the title, area of investigation, proposed methodology as well as possible conclusions. The proposal 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 explained in the application.

- D. Referee letters. These may either be submitted in hard copy or soft copy. Please see the section on soft copy application package.

The hard copy application package is to be submitted via mail to  
Asian Civilisations Museum  
1 Empress Place  
Singapore 179555  
Singapore  
Attn: Assistant Manager, Research and Publication Unit (RPU)

- II. The soft copy application package should include:
  - A. The application form
  - B. Research proposal
  - C. Two referees' recommendations in support of the application and research proposal. Referee should state in the letters how long and in what capacity he/she has known the applicant, evaluate the scholarly merit of the proposed research project as well as the applicant's research potential and character. Letters of recommendation should preferably bear the letterhead of the institution the referee is affiliated to.

The soft copy application package is to be submitted to [nhb\\_acm\\_rpu@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:nhb_acm_rpu@nhb.gov.sg).

**Proposal closing Date: 4 March 2010**

Incomplete and late applications will be disqualified.

For enquires, please contact us at [nhb\\_acm\\_rpu@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:nhb_acm_rpu@nhb.gov.sg).

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: How may I learn more about the ACM collection?

The ACM has published some of its collection in *The Asian Civilisations Museum: A-Z Guide to its Collections in 2003* (reprinted 2006). The ACM's online collection is on the website <http://www.sgcool.sg> though this site is not comprehensive.

Q2: What are the resources in Singapore available for my research?

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. The ACM also has interlibrary loan arrangements with the National library of Singapore (<http://catalogue.nlb.gov.sg>), the libraries of National University of Singapore (<http://www.linc.nus.edu.sg>) and Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (<http://www.iseas.edu.sg/library.html>).

Q3: 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 of the start of the fellowship.

Q4: Is accommodation provided on top of the stipend?

No, 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 7 days after the end of each completed month.

Q5: Does ACM provide hostel accommodation?

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

Q6: May I ship my belongings to ACM?

ACM does not accept personal belongings and cannot be liable for them.

Q7: Do I need a special visa to go 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](http://www.ica.gov.sg/services_centre_overview.aspx?pageid=252&secid=165)). The Singapore tourist visa is for 30 days, before which the research fellow will receive an employment permit.

Q8: 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 permit. As the award is subjected to the successful application of the employment permit, it is not advisable for the research fellow to travel to Singapore until the employment permit is granted. Research fellows will be informed when the employment permit has been obtained and they can start making their travel arrangements.

Q9: 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 30 days for taxation purposes. The withheld amount after taxes, will be returned to the research fellows 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> .