



Council of American Overseas Research Centers
Fostering International Scholarship

Multi-Country Research Fellowship Frequently Asked Questions

I am a US citizen living abroad, and I am an independent scholar. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, if you meet the other eligibility criteria such as holding a PhD or terminal degree or being a doctoral candidate with 'all but dissertation status,' and having a proposal topic that falls under the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences, then you are eligible to apply.

I am a US citizen enrolled in a PhD program in another country, and I have the equivalent of 'all but dissertation' status. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, if you have a proposal topic that falls under the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences, then you are eligible to apply.

I have a green card and have been living in the US for many years, am I eligible to apply?

No, you must be a US citizen to apply to the Multi-Country Research Fellowship. You may want to consider applying to the CAORC-NEH Research Fellowship since scholars who have been resident in the US for at least three years at the time of application are eligible to apply.

I am planning to apply as part of a team. Does the eligibility criteria also apply to team members?

Yes, the eligibility criteria applies to all team members.

I recently participated in an Overseas Faculty Development Seminar (through CAORC); do I need to wait three years to apply for the Multi-Country Research Fellowship?

No, the three-year waiting requirement only applies to applicants who have previously held a Multi-Country Research Fellowship or a CAORC-NEH Research Fellowship.

Some of the Overseas Research Centers (ORCs) have a regional focus, such as the West African Research Association (WARA) and the Americas Research Network (ARENET). Which country do I need to carry out research in to comply with the requirement that applicants must travel to at least one country with an Overseas Research Center?

For the Americas Research Network, you will need to spend time in Mexico and for the West African Research Association, you will need to spend time in Senegal. You are welcome to travel to other countries in the region as well. Note that if you are already planning to spend time in other countries with an ORC, then you have already fulfilled the requirement and do not need to necessarily travel to these countries.

How do I affiliate with an Overseas Research Center?

The affiliation process can differ depending on the center, so it is advisable to check the center's website or get in touch with them directly for more information. Note that you do not need to be affiliated with a center during the application process. You will only need to obtain affiliation if you are awarded the fellowship.

How can I contribute to an Overseas Research Center while on the fellowship?

This varies by center in terms of what sort of engagement is possible and by your individual interests, but examples from former fellows include hosting a workshop for local scholars, giving a lecture at the center, joining a reading group, creating open access digital resources, mentoring junior scholars, and collaborating on projects of mutual interest to name a few.

Do the fellowship funds go through my institution?

No, the fellowship funds are paid directly to the individual in the form of stipend payments.

Do I need to submit a budget with my application?

No, a budget is not necessary, but CAORC encourages applicants to keep costs in mind when developing the proposed travel plan.

Does the 90-day minimum requirement for travel need to be carried out in one trip?

No, you can take multiple trips at different times of year. Note that this differs from the CAORC-NEH Research Fellowship in which travel does need to be continuous.

How is the 90-day minimum requirement for travel calculated?

The time you spend on the fellowship includes travel days (being in the airport, taking flights, etc.) and the time you spend in-country carrying out your research project (including weekends).

Can I include photos or graphs in my application and if so, where should I include them?

Yes, images are permissible, and they can be inserted into the proposal narrative document.

Can you advise how to approach the literature review/bibliography?

The literature review/bibliography is a place to list publications and sources that you intend to draw on during your fellowship project. It's mostly aiming at resources you will access while on the fellowship. The style and format are flexible.

What happens if I am awarded another federally funded grant?

You will need to carry out the Multi-Country Research Fellowship in its entirety either before or after the other grant since the Multi-Country Research Fellowship is federally funded. The grants can be carried out consecutively but not simultaneously.

What happens if I am awarded another grant that is not federally funded?

In this case you can potentially carry out both grants simultaneously and use the funds to supplement your Multi-Country Research Fellowship (if this is also permissible in terms of the other funding organization).

I applied to the Multi-Country Research Fellowship last year and my application was unsuccessful. Will I be at a disadvantage if I reapply?

No, CAORC encourages previous applicants to continue revising and developing their proposal and to reapply.

How are applications reviewed?

The Multi-Country Research Fellowship has a three-stage peer review process, which involves anywhere from eight to twelve academics, depending on the year and the number of applications received, reviewing the applications at the different stages. The reviewers assess the application based on the following criteria:

- Contribution to the applicant's field of research

- Feasibility of the research design
- Applicant's qualifications in terms of having the requisite experience and skills to complete the project
- Rationale for carrying out the project in the proposed host country(ies) and affiliating with the ORC(s) / Contribution to the intellectual scope of the ORC(s)