Gerhart Center Fellowships

The goal of the fellowship program is to encourage original research and dissemination of findings that contribute to increased understanding of the rapidly growing fields of philanthropy and civic engagement in the Arab region. Research projects may be conducted in any relevant discipline and address a variety of topics such as citizenship, social justice philanthropy, corporate sustainability, university civic engagement, community engagement, youth activism, social responsibility or community-building. Comparative studies or those focused on understudied groups or geographic locations are especially welcome. Accepted projects will typically enrich knowledge of philanthropy or civic engagement as well as contributing to improved policy or practice and the well-being of people in the region. Fellowships for data collection and analysis and/or for write-up and publication are welcome.

Scholars from within the Arab region or beyond at any stage of their careers are accepted as Gerhart Center fellows. Graduate students pursuing dissertation field study are particularly encouraged to apply. Fellows will receive access to the AUC campus and its library resources, interaction and guidance as needed from staff of the center and our scholarly networks and an institutional base in Cairo for their project. At the moment, funds for fellowship recipients are extremely limited. Typical fellowships range in length from four to twelve months.

Research proposals involving human subjects will be expected to detail ethical procedures, explaining how subjects will be protected against harm, and how confidentiality and informed consent will be secured. Please review the Policy and Procedures Regarding Use of Human Subjects at The American University in Cairo.

Before entering the field, research proposals must have secured approval from AUC’s Institutional Review Board or an equivalent body at another university. Any required legal permissions in Egypt should also be secured.

Dissemination of Research
Each fellow will offer an informal seminar at the Gerhart Center on his/her research in progress at some point during the fellowship. Reporting on the fellowship may be in the form of a preliminary paper (20-35 pages in length) published in the Gerhart Center’s working paper series; Voices on Arab Philanthropy and Civic Engagement or in another format as agreed upon with the Research Manager. The Voices working paper series is available in print and on the center’s website and does not preclude publication subsequently in other venues. Fellows are also encouraged to submit an abstract of their work to the annual Takaful conference on philanthropy and civic engagement, as appropriate.

Voices Series

Selection
The selection process is managed by a committee at the Gerhart Center. Decisions are generally communicated within a month of each submission. Applicants could be accepted, asked to revise and resubmit, or informed that the application is not accepted.

Application Criteria
• Find the fellowship application here.
• Academic rigor and potential for published scholarship
• Academic record or promise of the applicant
• Contribution and significance of the research project to scholarship and documentation of the fields of philanthropy and civic engagement in the Arab region

Application Process
Interested researchers may submit applications any time of the year. A proposal of not more than eight pages should specify the research question to be studied, a short review of theory and relevant prior research, the feasibility of collecting relevant data while in Egypt, research methodology to be used, the potential impact of the research and a description of how the applicant’s research goals would be supported by his participation in the fellowship program. Proposals should be accompanied by a completed application form, a curriculum vitae and up to two letters of reference. Applications may be submitted in English or Arabic.