

AFRICAN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP Frequently Asked Questions

What are the requirements to apply for the African Research Fellowship?

African Research Fellowship grants are made annually to support field research projects by African nationals working on wild mammals in Africa. Eligible students must be citizens of African countries and currently enrolled in a graduate program. Projects must be field oriented investigations of natural history, conservation, ecology, systematics, wildlife biology, biogeography, or behavior. The selection committee's membership reflects these diverse fields and has field research experience in Africa.

Do I have to be a member of the American Society of Mammalogists to apply?

No. The award will be accompanied by an annual online membership to the ASM. We encourage you to consider becoming a member of the ASM if you want to become a professional mammalogist. Student and developing country membership dues are affordable and include important benefits to members. In addition, your dues help maintain the programs that support graduate research in the field of mammalogy. Please see www.mammalogy.org/committees/african-research-fellowship for further details.

Can I apply again if I applied last year but did not receive an award?

Yes. As long as you meet the requirements for eligibility above, you may apply as many times as you'd like.

Should I add figures, graphs, or tables to my project description?

Figures, graphs, and tables are allowed but not required, and count as part of the limit for project descriptions.

Should I add a separate list of references?

This is optional. If you choose to include it, the list of references does not count toward the limit for project descriptions.

Do I need a letter of recommendation in support of my application?

No, but we require that a 3-4 sentence email be sent to [Link E. Olson \(link.olson@alaska.edu\)](mailto:link.olson@alaska.edu) verifying your status as a graduate student, sent by your graduate adviser. *Do not have your advisor send an attached letter.*

Will you accept applications in languages besides English?

We encourage you to write your application in English or French if you can communicate your ideas effectively in English or French. We will not penalize you for your command of the language. However, if you feel you cannot communicate your ideas in English or French, you can use another language. The same applies for letters of recommendation.

How can I improve my chances of success?

Successful applications are well written, concise, and present a clear study plan, generally with an explicit, testable hypothesis. It is strongly recommended that you solicit feedback on early drafts of your application from your advisor, a member of your graduate committee, or a trusted colleague familiar with competitive grantsmanship.

When will I find out if I will be awarded a fellowship?

Winners are announced at each year's annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, and all applicants are notified at that time. <https://www.mammalogy.org/meetings>.

If I am awarded a fellowship, when will the funds become available?

You will be contacted by ASM to arrange for funds to be wired to your personal bank account within 2-3 weeks of award notification, generally no later than the third week in July.