

**Inter-Africa Mobility Research Fellowship Program for  
African Early-Career Scientists on past global changes**

**Application guidelines**

Please submit your application by **15 August 2024**

**Application checklist:**

1. Confirm your eligibility.
2. Request two (2) reference letters:
  - Your current academic supervisor must provide a letter outlining the benefits of the research fellowship.
  - Your host supervisor must provide a confirmation letter of hosting, outlining the benefits of the research at their institution and confirming the duration, the planned activities to be conducted, and the support (institutional, programmatic, and financial) to be given.
3. Complete the application form, including:
  - Description of proposed research and travel (max. 1000 words). Indicate how the aims and objectives of the fellowship relate to PAGES' scientific scope.
  - Description of the impact of the fellowship on your professional capacity development and its significance to your home institution/country (max. 200 words).
  - Project timeline and outcomes (up to one month duration).
  - Detailed budget in USD.
4. Prepare your two-page CV outlining your major academic and professional achievements.
5. Compile the application form, the reference letters and the CV and save them as **one single PDF without password protection** and name your application **PAGES\_YourLastName\_HomeCountry.pdf**
6. Send your application to **pages@pages.unibe.ch** with the subject "Application PAGES African Mobility Fellowship". Before submitting your application, make sure your application is complete with all the requested documents. The deadline is **15 August 2024**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
7. The preferred language for applications is English; however, applications in French will be accepted. After completing the fellowship, fellows must email a final report in English to PAGES (including a financial report, a scientific report, and a short article of 650 words and one figure to be published in *Past Global Changes Magazine*).
8. Please email **pages@pages.unibe.ch** if you have any questions.

### The Fellowship Program

This program supports African early-career researchers pursuing international research experience in paleoscience and is intended to support costs associated with inter-African travel and living expenses while abroad, i.e. flight (economy class), visa, and accommodation (subsistence and housing) costs for the period of the exchange, for the fellow only. Insurance will not be covered by the grant. PAGES cannot be deemed responsible if the candidate cannot travel for any reason (such as flight cancelation).

The goals and expected results of the program include:

- Develop and promote collaborative research among African researchers.
- Develop international collaborations, such as bilateral research projects, between home and host institutions.
- Publish the research results and present them at international conferences (where PAGES should be acknowledged).
- Become involved as an active member in PAGES activities (<https://pastglobalchanges.org/science/wg/intro>).
- Contribute to the promotion and development of local paleoscience communities.
- Contribute to the development of or participate in existing scientific networks devoted to paleoscience.
- Contribute to the principles of open science and open data.
- Contribute to a greater understanding of the Earth's past climate and environment to improve projections of future climate and environment, and to inform sustainability strategies.

*Field of study:* The research topics are open to all fields of paleosciences as long as the applicant can show that they are related to PAGES' scope.

*Fellowship support:* Up to USD 5,000.

*Number of grants:* Variable, depending on the merit of applications received and availability of external resources.

*Host Institution:* The choice of the host institution is left to the applicant. The host institution: a) must be in an African country; b) must be in a different country of the applicant's citizenship and home institution; and c) cannot be an institution where the applicant has previous experience or has studied.

*Duration:* The fellowships will be awarded for a short duration, maximum one month. The fellowship must be used within 12 months (awardees will have up to 12 months to take up their fellowship once awarded).

*Final Report:* After completing the fellowship, fellows must email a final report to PAGES (including a financial report, a scientific report and a short article to be published in *Past Global Changes Magazine*) in English. Detailed instructions will be shared with the awarded fellows.

### Eligibility

The applicants must fulfill the following conditions:

- Early-career scientists – either PhD students in the final stage of completing their thesis/dissertation, or postdoctoral researchers (within five years of completing their degree). We encourage applications from scientists who have not yet had the opportunity to conduct research abroad.
- Citizens of an African country and currently working or doing PhD at an African institution.
- The research topics are open to all fields of paleosciences, as long as the applicant can show that they are related to PAGES' scope (<https://pastglobalchanges.org/about/general-overview>).
- Individuals willing to conduct research at an African research institution not located in their home country.

**Selection criteria: eligible applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed under the criteria below. Additional selection criteria may consider gender, thematic, and regional balance.**

Criteria	Description & Indicators
Research potential and ability to foster collaboration (50%)	Quality and originality of the fellowship in supporting the understanding of past global change. Significance, feasibility, and merit of the proposed research in connection with PAGES' scope. Significance and relevance of research to the local and regional context of the home and/or host countries Relevance of work experience and academic training to the field of the proposed research. Judgment and ability to think critically. Initiative, autonomy, and independence. Previous research experience. Potential to promote collaboration between home and host institution.
Academic excellence (30%)	Scholarships and awards previously received. Relative standing in his/her program. Track record of publications and conference participation.
Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills (20%)	Work and leadership experience. Project management including organizing conferences, forums, and/or symposia. The ability or potential to communicate and present theoretical, technical, and/or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written and oral formats. Involvement in academic life and community (volunteer).

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**Application form**

**Application summary**

Project title	
Keywords (up to 5)	
Research area of your proposed fellowship topic	
Proposed duration of fellowship (must be more than two weeks but maximum one month)	From (date): To (date):

**Applicant details**

Title	
First (given) name(s)	
Last (family) name(s)	
Nationality (if more than one, please include all)	
Email address	
Cellphone number	
Physical address	

Position	
Home institution	
Department	
Country	

Name of the supervisor at home institution	
Home supervisor contact details (email, telephone, address)	

PhD field of study	
Date received or expected	

**Host institution**

Host institution name	
Department	
Country	

Name of the supervisor at host institution	
Host supervisor position	
Host supervisor contact details (email, telephone, address)	

### Proposal details

Describe the proposed research and indicate how the aims and objectives of the fellowship relate to PAGES' scientific scope (max. 1000 words).

Describe the impact of the fellowship on your professional capacity development and its significance to your home institution/country (max. 200 words).

Give the projected timeline and outcomes (up to one month duration).

### Proposed budget

Please provide an itemized budget of your proposed fellowship in USD. Budget may cover travel, visa, and accommodation costs only.

Item	Estimated cost

### Additional details

Please suggest at least four potential reviewers for your proposal. The reviewers must be experts (with at least a PhD) in the field of your proposed project. No prior contact with the potential reviewers is required.

Name	Title	Institution	Email address	Area of expertise

### Appendix: Supporting documents

Please include two letters of recommendation (one from the current academic supervisor at the home institution and one from the supervisor at the host institution), a two-page CV, and other supporting documentation such as letters of support from any other funding sources, quotes to support your budget, or any other documentation that could provide clarity to your application.