



ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship Program in France
Cycle 8 (2025)

Frequently Asked Questions

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Eligibility

I have not yet obtained my PhD degree. Can I still apply?

No, you should have obtained your PhD by the time of application.

I have obtained my PhD more than 6 years ago. Am I still eligible to apply?

No, this fellowship targets recent PhD holders, who are 0-6 years out of a PhD program in the social sciences and humanities.

Will the program only fund applicants based in the Arab region?

Yes. The ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship Program generally targets scholars based in the Arab region. However, Arab scholars who obtained their PhD from an institution outside the Arab region are eligible to apply if they have resided in the Arab region for at least the past two years.

Does the program have any geographical restrictions or preferences as to where the applicant should be based within the Arab region?

No. The program funds applicants based in any country that is a member in the League of Arab States (Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen).

The Call for Applications specifically mentions the social sciences and humanities. Will you consider proposals from researchers in other allied disciplines?

This program is open to PhD holders in the social sciences and humanities fields including disciplines such as anthropology, demography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, geography, law, and philosophy. Interdisciplinary fields are accepted and include gender studies, cultural studies, media studies, development studies, and urban studies. Due to French funding restrictions, the program is not open to linguistics, archeology, literary studies, and arts.

What is the expected duration of research?

The duration of the Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship is a minimum of 2 months and a maximum of 3 months to be spent in France. Applicants can apply to one of the two following fellowship periods: between April and June 2025, or from September to November 2025.

Am I eligible to apply for the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship if I am from an Arab country but not “Arab”?

Yes, as long as you have citizenship in an Arab country (or residence in an Arab country in the case of ‘citizenless’ refugees).

Am I eligible to apply to the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship if I am from an Arab country but do not hold the citizenship of an Arab country?

No. For this fellowship program, you are required to submit a proof of citizenship (or residence in an Arab country in the case of ‘citizenless’ refugees) with your application.

Am I eligible to apply to the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship if I am a citizen of an Arab country but am living abroad, outside of the Arab region?

No. You are considered ineligible if you are currently living outside the Arab Region. Furthermore, Arab scholars who obtained their PhD from an institution outside the Arab region must have been residents in the region for at least the past two years.

Am I eligible to apply to the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship if I am originally from an Arab country, or my parents/ancestors were from an Arab country but I no longer hold an Arab citizenship and am living outside of the Arab region?

No. For this fellowship program citizenship from an Arab country or proof of residence (in the case of ‘citizenless’ refugees) in an Arab country is required.

Am I eligible to apply to the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship if I am not from an Arab country, but I am a specialist interested in and working on the Arab region?

No. Unfortunately, the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship is not open to this category of researchers.

Is the program open to all age groups?

Yes. The program does not have any age restriction.

Am I eligible to apply to the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship if I am currently employed in a permanent position?

Yes. Applicants can be currently affiliated with a public or private institution. However, they should be able to take official leave during the 2 or 3 months of the fellowship.

Am I eligible to apply to the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship if I live and work in the Arab region, but my research institution is located outside the Arab region?

Yes. Applicants can be affiliated to a research institution abroad but have to prove that they live and work remotely from the Arab Region. A proof a minimum 2 years residency has to be provided.

Am I eligible to apply to the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship if I am not currently employed in a permanent position?

Yes. Applicants do not need to have a permanent position, but they should be affiliated with a public or private institution. In addition, they should be able to take official leave during the 2 or 3 months of the fellowship.

Am I eligible to apply to the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship if my research project is new?

Yes. Research projects submitted could be either ongoing or new. The proposal narrative should make clear the stage of the research and how it will benefit from the stay in France.

Is my project eligible if it is a collective work?

No. This program funds individual research only. Any collaborative or co-written project will be disqualified.

French Host Institution

Can I be hosted by an institution in Europe but not specifically in France during the fellowship period?

No. The program is only open to applicants who are willing to spend the time of their fellowship in France.

Should I be hosted by a particular institution in France during the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship?

No. The program does not impose particular institutions on the applicants and you are free to select an institution that is relevant to your research and which will accept to host you for the time of your fellowship. However, we expect you to explain in your application reasons behind the choice of that institution and ways in which you believe this particular institution will be beneficial for your research. Hosting also means providing you with academic support and supervision. At the time of your application, you should provide a letter from the hosting institution addressed to the Arab Council for the Social Sciences and the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme expressing the institution's willingness and capacity to host you during the period of the fellowship.

What should I do if I am not able to make contact with a French Institution?

Applicants who are not able to make contact with a French institution can visit [ScanR](#), where all French research centers are listed, or contact FMSH to ask for assistance using the following email: atlas@msh-paris.fr.

Will the ACSS and FMSH Secretariat be communicating directly with the institution prior and during my Fellowship?

Yes. Upon shortlisting, FMSH will be contacting the institution to review the terms and conditions of its commitment.

Application Process

Can I submit an application and proposal in Arabic?

No. Applications and proposal material must be submitted in French or English only.

How do I apply to the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship?

Applicants must submit an online application through the [FMSH website](#), **AND** fill out a profile page on the [ACSS website](#). Applications will be open as of September 16th, 2024.

Step 1: Apply on the FMSH Website:

1. Access the [online application form](#) and enter «Researcher Workspace».
2. You have to be registered on the online platform in order to use it. If you haven't created an account yet, you will be asked to.
3. Create your profile by filling in all your personal information and then enter "create a new application".
4. Select "Atlas Programme incoming 2025" and then the specific call « FMSH-ACSS: Arab countries > France».
5. Fill in all the information tabs.
6. In the "Documents" final tab, you will need to upload your research proposal and the appendices **into one single PDF document:**
 - Research proposal
 - Curriculum vitae
 - Copy of your PhD diploma
 - Proof of citizenship or long-term residence in an Arab country
 - Invitation letter from the director of the host laboratory/center of research in France
 - Reference letter from a member of the research institution in the country of origin.

7. You can save your application and complete it later as many times as you wish, until the closure of the call for applications. Once you have submitted your application, you will no longer be able to amend it. Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an automatic email confirming the submission.

For any information about the platform or in case you face difficulties using it, please contact fadili@msh-paris.fr.

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Step 2: Fill out a profile page on the ACSS website:

1. Go to the [profile platform](#).
2. You have to be registered on the platform in order to create your profile. If you haven't created an account yet, you will be asked to.
3. Create your profile by providing the requested information.

When will I know the result of my application?

Decisions will be communicated to applicants via email during the beginning of February 2025.

What are the attachments that I am expected to submit with my application?

Applicants need to submit the following documents with their applications:

1. **A research proposal (spaces and references included)**
2. **A curriculum vitae (2 pages maximum)**
3. **A copy of PhD certificate**
4. **A proof of citizenship or long-term residence in an Arab country**
5. **A letter of invitation from the director of the hosting research center in France**
6. **A reference letter from the head of the institution in the region to which the applicant is affiliated explaining the research activities the applicant has been engaged in during their tenure at the institution.**

Successful applicants should expect to be contacted by the ACSS and FMSH Secretariat in case further information is needed with regards to the above documents. Applications missing any of the above documents will not be forwarded to the Selection Committee.

When is the deadline for the eighth cycle of the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship?

You must complete and submit your online application before 17:00 pm (Paris Time) on December 09, 2024.

Do I need to complete the online application all at once?

No. You may return to the online application as many times as necessary between September 16, 2024 and December 09, 2024 as long as you “save” your application and don’t “submit” it. Make sure to save your work after you finish each section of the application. The online application will contain detailed instructions on how to do this. Once the application has been submitted, you will no longer be able to alter the information.

Do I need to provide written references?

Yes. You need to provide a written reference letter from the head of the institution in the region to which the applicant is affiliated with, explaining the research activities the applicant has been engaged in during their tenure at the institution.

How will I know that my application is complete?

After you have successfully submitted your application, you will receive an automated confirmation email from FMSH.

Can I ask for feedback on my application before submission?

Yes and no. The ACSS and FMSH will provide you with general feedback on whether your application fulfils eligibility requirements and specific issues regarding the application materials requested. However, you will not be provided with feedback on the content and quality of your application and your narrative proposal.

What should I expect once my application has been submitted?

The ACSS and FMSH Secretariat will carry out an initial review of applications to determine eligibility and eliminate incomplete applications. Eligible applications are then sent to the Selection Committee for evaluation. During the initial review phase, the ACSS and FMSH Secretariat may contact applicants to inquire about any missing information and/or documents.

If my application is unsuccessful, will I receive feedback as to why my proposal was not selected?

No. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications.

Research Proposal Writing and Evaluation Criteria

How long should my proposal be?

The final proposal should not exceed 5-8 pages (typed, spaced 1.5, 12-point font) including spaces and references.

What should I include in my research proposal?

The body of the proposal should include the following components:

Aims of the research project, specific research questions, review of the literature, methodology, and anticipated results.

A detailed plan of the activities to be conducted during the fellowship period this includes places and institutions to be visited, contacts, type of data collection, and work plan.

A good explanation for the reasons behind choosing this particular institution in France.

A bibliography of relevant sources for the research project.

If you have questions about the content of the proposal, please contact the FMSH at atlas@msh-paris.fr or the ACSS team at grants@theacss.org.

What are the criteria according to which my application will be assessed?

A multi-disciplinary Selection Committee composed of distinguished Arab and French scholars with established research and publication records will review and select proposals for funding. The selection procedures abide by the highest standards of academic and ethical judgment. The evaluation criteria that will be used to evaluate applications are the following:

- **Research proposal's contribution to knowledge**, which includes the clarity of the research questions, the significance of the project, its quality and originality.
- **The competence of the applicant**, which includes academic credentials and promise.
- **The candidate's postdoctoral plan**, which includes the relevance and significance of the selected host institution and the fellowship plan outlined in the proposal.
- **Expected outputs**, which includes the planned activities, publications and career development plans.

Grant Details

What happens after I am selected for the fellowship?

Successful applicants will receive provisional acceptance letters confirming their selection and, if applicable, requests for clarification and elaboration from the Selection Committee. The ACSS and FMSH Secretariat will contact the proposed research center to inquire about the terms and conditions of the center's work with the successful applicant. After that, a contract will be sent to the applicant detailing the terms of the fellowship, including deadline for reporting and required activities and outputs.

Do I have any reporting obligations upon being awarded the grant?

Yes. Upon completion of the fellowship period, fellows will have to write one short narrative report detailing the work done and the progress made during the fellowship period.

Do I have any other obligations upon receiving the grant?

Yes. Each fellow will be requested to contribute an abstract concerning their project to the FMSH and ACSS websites, and one working paper to appear as a prepublication in the ACSS Working Paper Series. (Please see [the guidelines for the Working Paper Series on this page](#).) In addition, fellows will be invited to attend and present at the ACSS Sixth Research Forum that will be held in Spring 2026. The cost of attending this event should not be budgeted for in the proposals. They will be covered directly by the ACSS and FMSH.

What does the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship amount to?

Fellows will receive a monthly stipend of 1,800 Euros (paid at the beginning of each month of stay in France). FMSH will also provide support for obtaining a visa and will guide potential fellows on planning the logistics of their stay. This includes help with finding accommodation, contact with French research centers, and letters to libraries and archives. Financial assistance for international tickets to France will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

What does the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Postdoctoral Mobility Fellowship cover?

The stipend is intended to cover accommodation, living and transport costs, as well as research costs.

I am not able to get a visa to France. Will the FMSH help me obtain a visa?

FMSH will provide support for obtaining a visa and will guide potential fellows on planning the logistics of their stay. This includes help with finding accommodation, contact with French research centers, and letters to libraries and archives.

I am applying for multiple grants. Should I be awarded the ACSS-FMSH Short-Term Fellowship, can I also accept funding from other sources?

No. You cannot accept any funding from any other organization for the same research project or items covered by the ACSS-FMSH Fellowship during the fellowship period. In case the second offer covers the same research project or items as those covered by the ACSS-FMSH Fellowship, you may then have to choose between one of the grants.



Will the ACSS and FMSH share the information submitted in the proposal with other bodies?

By submitting the application, you are granting the ACSS and FMSH at their own discretion the right to share information with other institutions (including donor agencies) on your research title, objectives, location and the researchers' contact information. In case of compelling circumstances, limited exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis in this regard. Please note that, upon selection, the name, bio, title of your research project, and abstract will be posted on the ACSS and FMSH websites as part of their commitment to transparency towards their stakeholders.

Applicants should contact the ACSS (at grants@theacss.org) and the FMSH Secretariat (at atlas@msh-paris.fr) in case they do not wish to share particular information at any point of the process due to compelling reasons.