

## **AISLS Fellowship Program**

### **General Information**

AISLS fellowships support two to nine months of research in Sri Lanka by US citizens who already hold a PhD or the equivalent at the time they begin their fellowship tenure. Both scholars with little or no experience in Sri Lanka as well as specialists are encouraged to apply. This program is funded by a grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the US State Department.

### **Eligibility Guidelines**

- Applicants must hold US citizenship.
- Applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent academic degree or show that they will hold such a degree before taking up the fellowship. Scholars at all ranks are eligible.
- Persons who have received an AISLS fellowship in either of the two most recent previous competitions are not eligible.
- Applicants must plan to spend at least two months in Sri Lanka and complete the fellowship (including travel back to the United States) before August 28, 2010. The time in Sri Lanka supported by the fellowship need not be continuous (e.g., it might be divided between the summers of 2009 and 2010), but only one roundtrip airfare will be reimbursed.

### **Fellowship Benefits**

- A stipend of \$2,400/month, for a period of two to nine months.
- Reimbursement for roundtrip airfare between the United States and Colombo, for an amount up to \$2000. Travel must be on US carriers; details of the "Fly American" policy will be provided to successful applicants.
- A limited budget for research expenses, to be negotiated according to need and funding limitations. Fellows will be required to provide documentation for these expenses.

### **Competition Criteria**

Projects in all fields in the social sciences, humanities, and policy sciences are eligible. Applicants need not have prior research experience in Sri Lanka. Proposals will be judged on their quality, on the extent to which they fall into one of the targeted categories listed below, and on their potential to strengthen US scholarship on Sri Lanka and develop links between US and Sri Lankan scholars. All applications, including those from US citizens resident outside the United States, must address all three of these criteria.

Applicants should apply for whatever length of tenure between two and nine months best suits their research needs and personal schedules. There is no competitive advantage in applying for a shorter award. However, due to budget considerations the AISLS may offer a fellowship for a shorter period than that requested.

## Targeted Categories

All proposals should fall into one of the following categories:

- Proposals by scholars with an established interest in Sri Lanka, who can show that their research will contribute to the understanding of historical or contemporary connections with other parts of the world. Such connections may take the form of substantive links, or they may take the form of relating processes or events in Sri Lanka to analogous processes and events elsewhere.
- Proposals by scholars whose primary interest is not in Sri Lanka, but who wish to include consideration of Sri Lanka as part of a wider project.
- Proposals by scholars whose primary interest has not been in Sri Lanka, but who wish to undertake, or examine the feasibility of undertaking, a major research project there.

## Application Contents

The completed application should contain the following items:

- An AISLS Fellowship Application Cover Sheet.
- A curriculum vitae, not to exceed three pages. The AISLS seeks to attract a diverse pool of applicants. To assist the AISLS in monitoring its efforts in this regard, applicants may, on a voluntary basis, include information on such matters as gender and race/ethnicity.
- A description of the proposed study, not to exceed three single-spaced pages. This is the most important part of the application. It should cover the following topics:
- questions to be addressed by the project
  1. Questions to be addressed by the project
  2. the approach to be taken
  3. work done to date
  4. work to be accomplished during the fellowship period
  5. the applicant's competence to carry out the project
  6. how the project addresses the criteria of the competition
  7. a statement of other support received or being sought for the project
- A one-page project bibliography, including a selected list of publications by other scholars or primary sources that have been or will be used in the project.

## Application Format

- Pages should have one-inch margins on all sides.
- Type size should be 10 points or larger.
- Pages should be printed on one side only.
- Every page should be numbered and include the name of the applicant in the upper right-hand corner.
- Five copies of the application (including the original) should be submitted, each collated in the order given above (cover sheet, cv, project description, bibliography) and fastened with a staple.

### **Deadlines, Selection, and Notification**

Applications must be postmarked by December 1, 2008. Early submission is encouraged. Submissions by fax or email will not be accepted. Applications will be reviewed by specialist readers, and awards will be determined by the Selection Committee. Awards will be announced on March 2009.

#### **Applications should be sent to:**

John Rogers  
Chair, AISLS Selection Committee  
155 Pine St.  
Belmont, MA 02478

For more information, contact John Rogers at the above address or at [rogersjohnd@aol.com](mailto:rogersjohnd@aol.com).