

Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellowship

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Eligibility

Who is eligible for grants?

This initiative is open to Africa-based organizations that have been invited to apply, including non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, government agencies, and academic institutions. Individuals and organizations classified as individuals for U.S. tax purposes are not eligible to receive an award from the foundation as part of this initiative.

May I apply if I have no affiliation with an organization or institution?

No. Applicants must hold a permanent position at an Africa-based organization.

Application Process

What must my application include?

There are 5 main sections of the applications outlined below. All should be completed directly within the Survey Monkey Apply portal. We have noted which requirements are documents to be uploaded to the system. For additional detail, please refer to the [Application Package guidance document](#) and the [Rules and Guidelines](#) document.

- Section I: Applicant profile (primary contact information)
- Section II: Additional background information
- Section III: You as a scientist
In this section, we are interested in understanding your experience and vision as a researcher and what you would work on if you were awarded this fellowship.
- Section IV: You as a person, a leader, a collaborator, and a creative thinker
In this section, we are interested in learning more about you – who are you? What moves you? What are you curious about? What are the big issues in your field? In your community? How has COVID-19 influenced your thinking?
- Section V: Other supporting material
 - o Curriculum Vitae (document upload)
 - o Letters of reference (2 in total as document uploads)
 - o Letter of support from supervisor/employer (1 in total as document upload)
 - o Video (5 min max) describing why you are passionate about your work and the impact this fellowship would have.

Do you require or accept letters of reference and to whom should they be directed?

Yes, we ask for 2 letters of reference as part of the application package. You may address them to the review committee.

Do I need endorsement or approval from my institution in order to apply for this competition?

Yes, we require a letter of support from your supervisor/employer as part of the application package. Additionally, grant awards are made to organizations on behalf of individual award recipients. If you are selected to receive a grant, your organization will be required to agree to the terms and conditions governing the grant award.

Am I able to edit my proposal once submitted?

Yes, you may edit your proposal up until the specified deadline.

What amount of indirect cost is available?

Details of the foundation indirect cost policy guidelines can be found here:

https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/Documents/Indirect_Cost_Policy.pdf

Review Process

How does the review process work?

The review process will be executed as follows:

1. The first step consists of screening all applications to evaluate whether proposals address the requirements as outlined within the application instructions and rules and guidelines.
2. In the second step, reviews will be undertaken by an expert panel comprised of internal foundation staff as well as external reviewers. Reviewers are selected from the world's leading researchers, including African scientific leaders, and will comprise both experts in the topic area and experts in complementary areas. Not all reviewers have deep expertise in your specific topic area; please consider this information when drafting your proposal.
3. Following the expert review stage, reviewer feedback will be consolidated, and the applications will be reviewed for a second time by an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will select finalists who will be invited to prepare a virtual presentation and will have the opportunity to be interviewed by and ask questions of the Executive Committee.
4. The fourth step is the validation and final selection of the proposals to be funded. The Executive Committee may recommend the proposal be funded, subject to specific modifications which will be negotiated as part of the award process. Organizations invited to submit full proposals will be provided additional technical instructions at that time.
5. The fifth and final step is a due diligence review by the foundation and direct discussion and negotiation of any adjustments to the proposed project recommended by the Executive Committee. Applicants will be contacted as part of the due diligence review.

Can I get a list of potential reviewers who might be assigned to my application?

No. We do not make public the roster of reviewers.

Can I request that my application not be reviewed by a specific individual?

No. However, we will ask reviewers about conflicts of interest and will not assign reviewers with conflicts.

Award Information

Are grant awards made directly to individuals?

No. All awards are made to the organization where the individual holds their primary appointment. Institutions must agree to the terms and conditions governing the grant award prior to award activation.

How much money will each grant provide?

The funding level for the Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellowship is a grant of up to \$1,000,000 USD with a term of up to sixty (60) months.

Are the grants renewable?

No. These grants are for a single five-year term.

Are award recipients expected to participate in foundation sponsored scientific meetings and trainings?

Yes. We expect fellows will take up to 3 trips per year to participate in foundation sponsored meetings, learning visits, events, etc. The award recipients are also expected to participate in in-person trainings throughout the course of the fellowship.

Can awards be transferred to another research institution if the award recipient moves?

Transfers will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will only be approved if the eligibility requirements continue to be met at the new institution.

How many fellows do you anticipate funding?

While subject to change, we anticipate funding 7-10 fellows in 2021, an approximate rate of 10-15%.

Technical Support

I forgot my password. How do I reset my password?

You can request to update your password within the application site. If you continue to have issues, please reach out to grandchallenges@gatesfoundation.org.

How will I know if my application was submitted?

Once an application is submitted, an email confirmation will be sent.

I'm having trouble uploading my application file. What should I do?

If you are having issues submitting your application, we would encourage you to submit from a different browser. If the issue persists, please email the specifics of your problem to: grandchallenges@gatesfoundation.org.

How often do you intend to update the Frequently Asked Questions, and do you plan to provide answers to all questions submitted?

We will periodically post answers to questions as they are submitted, but do not have a specific schedule. We will provide answers on this page that are of relevance and of general interest to potential applicants. For answers to specific questions that are not covered here, please email grandchallenges@gatesfoundation.org.