

**VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM
2012-2013
FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES
Application Deadline: October 15, 2011**

GUIDELINES

Deadline for Applications and Three Letters of Reference: October 15, 2011

OVERVIEW

The Visiting Scholars Program (VSP) is an interdisciplinary research fellowship housed at the headquarters of the Academy in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Its purpose is to stimulate and support scholarly work by promising scholars and practitioners in the early stages of their careers and to foster exchange between an emerging generation of scholars and Academy members with shared interests.

To accomplish these goals, the Academy offers scholars the opportunity to combine independent research and writing with active involvement in its programs and activities. Visiting scholars are invited to participate in Academy-sponsored conferences, seminars and informal gatherings. They also benefit from institutional partnerships with local universities, libraries, and research institutes in the Boston area.

The Academy conducts the Visiting Scholars Program in association with the Harvard Humanities Center, which provides access to the university's research facilities and works with the Academy to plan joint lectures, seminars, and informal discussions.

A group of 54 academic institutions from across the country have become "University Affiliates" of the Academy, with a special interest in developing and supporting the VSP. A list of our current University Affiliates can be found at <https://www.amacad.org/vsp/affiliates.aspx>.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Applications are available at the Academy's website: www.amacad.org. For further inquiries, contact the Visiting Scholars Office at (phone) 617-576-5002; (fax) 617-576-5050; or by e-mail: vsp@amacad.org.

ELIGIBILITY

Preference is given to untenured junior faculty but the program is also open to qualified postdocs. Candidates who are completing scholarly manuscripts are especially welcome. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have permanent resident status as of the application deadline date and should have completed their Ph.D., J.D, or equivalent professional training within the last 10 years. Graduate student applicants must complete all degree requirements by August 1, 2012.

TERMS AND STIPENDS

One of the goals of the program is to build a community of research scholars in residence; regular attendance at the Academy facilitates this goal. Research trips, interviews, attendance at scholarly meetings or speaking engagements should be limited to no more than **twelve** days during the fellowship term, and scholars may not accept any teaching appointment or other major commitments during the fellowship. Faculty can receive up to \$60,000 (not to exceed one-half of current salary). Postdocs receive an annual stipend of up to \$40,000. The Academy provides office space, computer services, library privileges, and assists with information on locating housing. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Academy require that scholars have health insurance before taking up residency.

SELECTION PROCESS

Committees of Academy Fellows and experts in relevant fields will review the applications and recommend candidates to the VSP advisory panel. Candidates will be informed of the decision in spring, 2012. Applications will be judged on the basis of:

- Clear exposition of the study to be undertaken; preference is given to candidates in the writing stage of their projects;
- Quality and significance of the proposed project;
- Reasonable work plan; if an applicant intends to rewrite a dissertation for publication, he or she must describe specifically a plan for altering or expanding the original work;
- Intellectual distinction of candidate's previous work;
- Relevance of proposed study to Academy programs;
- References—letters must relate directly to the applicant's proposed project; please **do not** submit standard dossier letters.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The Academy seeks proposals that relate to its research areas: Humanities & Culture; Science, Technology & Global Security; Social Policy & American Institutions; and Education. A full description of Academy studies may be found online at www.amacad.org/projects.aspx. Projects that address American cultural, social, or political issues from the founding period to the present are welcome, as are studies on the history of science and technology in America.

Statement about Participation in the Academy's Multidisciplinary Community

Visiting Scholars are members of an intellectual community dedicated to multidisciplinary scholarship and collaborative approaches to pressing cultural and societal issues. How would your work benefit from your participation in such a community and what contributions can you make to the Academy's broader mission of advancing knowledge in the public interest?

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications and three (3) letters of reference must be postmarked no later than October 15, 2011.

The application must be submitted in its entirety, including:

A completed application form:

1. A 100-word project summary in non-technical terms written for a general audience;
2. A 1,500-word project description covering the following:
 - Project's contribution to the field;
 - Status of research you have initiated or completed on this topic;
 - Plan of work to be accomplished at the VSP; and
 - Relation of research to archival resources in the Boston area.
3. A working bibliography related to the proposal (maximum of two pages **attached** to your project description); and
4. A *curriculum vitae* of no more than 5 pages.

Applicants are responsible for contacting three (3) references and ensuring that their letters are sent to the Academy by the postmark deadline. We discourage standard dossier letters and strongly recommend that you send your project description to your references and request that they refer to the content of your statement in their letters. Recommenders may submit letters by mail or electronically to: vsp@amacad.org. **The Academy is not responsible for missing letters of recommendation.**

We require that you apply electronically. All parts of the application, with the exception of the recommendation letters, **must** be submitted at one time. We do not accept applications by fax.

All applications should be written in English.