

**VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2018-2019 FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES**

**Application Deadline: October 27, 2017**

## Guidelines

***Deadline for Applications and Three Letters of Reference: October 27, 2017***

### OVERVIEW

Founded in 1780 by John Adams, James Bowdoin, and other scholar-patriots, the Academy is one of the nation's oldest learned societies. It promotes scholarship across a wide range of fields and, in the words of its founders, "cultivates every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honour, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent, and virtuous people."

The Visiting Scholars Program was established in 2000 as part of an Academy-wide effort to promote the work of early-career scholars. It provides residential fellowships for post-doctoral scholars who are completing manuscripts on projects relating to American history, culture, and public policy from the founding period to the present. The Program offers scholars an academic year for research and writing, a collaborative work environment, and the opportunity to interact with Academy members. It also provides scholars an opportunity to apply their scholarly training to real-world issues and develop new skills by involving scholars in at least one Academy project or publication during their term. This work could include pursuing research for a project committee, assisting in the preparation of an issue of *Daedalus*, helping to organize a conference or a symposium, or other comparable activities. Each Visiting Scholar will also present his or her work at a seminar for interested Academy members and staff.

A mentorship program will pair each scholar with an Academy member who is an expert in a related field of study and who has agreed to offer professional and editorial support.

### ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to scholars who received their Ph.D. degree within four (4) years before the application deadline date who do not hold a tenure-track faculty appointment and have not previously published a scholarly monograph. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have permanent resident status in the U.S. as of the application deadline date. Graduate student applicants must have the degree in hand by August 1, 2018.

### TERMS AND STIPENDS

One of the goals of the Visiting Scholars 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 one weekday per week during the fellowship term, and scholars may not accept any teaching appointment or other major commitments during the fellowship.

The fellowship is a one-year postdoctoral fellowship with a mutual option to renew for a second year. The annual stipend for the fellowship is \$60,000. Health benefits are included, as are modest stipends for moving and research travel.

The Academy provides office space, computer services, and library privileges; it also assists with information on locating housing in the Boston/Cambridge area.

Visiting Scholars are members of an intellectual community dedicated to multidisciplinary scholarship and collaborative approaches to pressing cultural and societal issues. Please include in your proposal a statement considering how your work would benefit from your participation in a multidisciplinary community.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

An on-line application form is available at the Academy's website: [www.amacad.org](http://www.amacad.org). For further inquiries, contact the Visiting Scholars Office at (phone) 617-576-5082 or by e-mail: [vsp@amacad.org](mailto:vsp@amacad.org).

### ***Deadline***

Applications must be submitted through the online application form on the Academy's website and three required letters of reference must be submitted no later than October 27, 2017.

### ***Requirements***

**The application must be submitted in its entirety, including:**

1. A completed on-line application form.
2. A 100-word project summary in non-technical terms written for a general audience.
3. A 1,500-word project description covering the following:
  - Project's significance for the field
  - Status of research you have initiated or completed on this topic
  - Plan of work to be accomplished as a Visiting Scholar
  - Statement of ways that you would hope to be involved in projects at the American Academy
  - Statement about participation in the Academy's multidisciplinary community.
4. A working bibliography related to your proposal (maximum of two pages attached to your project description). This should be a list of works with which you see your project as being in conversation, and is intended to help scholars from other disciplines situate your work in the broader field.
5. A curriculum vita of no more than 5 pages.
6. Three letters of reference submitted by the deadline.

### ***Letters of Reference***

Applicants are responsible for contacting three (3) references and ensuring that their letters are submitted to the Academy by the postmark deadline.

We strongly recommend that you send our guidelines and your project description to your references and request that references not only describe your overall scholarly capability but also comment on your proposed research.

Recommenders may submit letters by mail or electronically to: [vsp@amacad.org](mailto:vsp@amacad.org). The Academy is not responsible for missing letters of recommendation.

### ***Additional Requirements***

We require that you apply electronically (<https://www.amacad.org/content/visitingScholars/application.aspx>). We do not accept applications by fax.

Finalists will be asked to submit a writing sample relevant to the proposed project of 8,000 words minimum.

All applications must be written in English.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

Academy Fellows and experts in relevant fields will review the applications and recommend candidates to the VSP advisory committee. Candidates will be informed of the committee's decision in Spring 2018. Applications will be judged on the basis of:

- Clear exposition of the study to be undertaken, with detailed information about its stage of progress and about what remains to be done—preference will be given to candidates in the writing stage of their projects
- Quality and significance of the proposed project
- Reasonable work plan; applicants intending to rewrite a dissertation for publication must describe specifically a plan for altering or expanding the original work
- Intellectual distinction of the candidate's previous work
- Relevance of the proposed study to Academy programs
- The candidate's interest in, and ability to contribute to, the programmatic work of the American Academy