The Academy Scholars Program

The Academy Scholars Program identifies and supports outstanding scholars at the start of their careers whose work combines disciplinary excellence in the social sciences or law with a command of the language and history or culture of countries or regions outside of the United States or Canada. Their scholarship may elucidate domestic, comparative, or transnational issues, past or present.

The Academy Scholars are a select community of individuals with resourcefulness, initiative, curiosity, and originality, whose work in cultures or regions outside of the US or Canada shows promise as a foundation for exceptional careers in major universities or international institutions.

Academy Scholars are appointed for a two-year, in-residence, postdoctoral fellowship at The Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. They receive substantial financial and research assistance to undertake sustained projects of research and/or acquire accessory training in their chosen fields and areas. The Senior Scholars, a distinguished group of Harvard University faculty members, act as mentors to the Academy Scholars to help them achieve their intellectual potential.

Eligibility

The competition for these awards is open only to recent PhD (or comparable professional school degree) recipients and doctoral candidates in the social sciences or law. Those still pursuing a PhD should have completed their routine training and be well along in the writing of their theses before applying to become Academy Scholars. If you have completed a PhD program, the PhD completion date must be within three years of the October 1 application deadline. For applicants applying for the October 1, 2018 deadline, you must have completed your PhD or equivalent after September 30, 2015.

Terms

Each year, four to five Academy Scholars are named for two-year appointments. Academy Scholars are expected to reside in the Cambridge/Boston area for the duration of their appointments unless traveling for pre-approved research purposes.

Postdoctoral Academy Scholars will receive an annual stipend of $67,000. If selected before earning the PhD, the Scholars will receive an annual stipend of $31,000 until awarded the PhD. This stipend is supplemented by funding for conference and research travel, research assistants, and health insurance coverage. Some teaching is permitted but not required.

Before applying, applicants should consult The Harvard Academy website:
http://www.academy.wcfia.harvard.edu

For questions not answered on The Harvard Academy website, e-mail:
applicationinquiries@wcfia.harvard.edu

To Apply

All application materials need to be submitted by the deadline of October 1, 2018. We do not accept late applications.

The completed application will include:
1. Cover letter which succinctly states the applicant’s academic field, country or region of specialization, and proposed research topic
2. Curriculum vitae (CV) or résumé; including a list of publications
3. Research proposal (2500 word maximum); including intellectual objectives and planned methodological and disciplinary work
4. A copy of your PhD program transcript
5. Three letters of recommendation (uploaded through the online application); Letters of recommendation need to be uploaded by the deadline of October 1.

All parts of the application, including the three letters of recommendation, are submitted online as pdf documents. Access the online application through the homepage of The Harvard Academy’s website: https://academy.wcfia.harvard.edu.

All materials must be received by October 1, 2018. The selection process begins immediately thereafter. Applicants whose materials are incomplete are at a disadvantage when considered by the Selection Committee. Announcement of the awards will be made in December 2018.

The Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs
Harvard University
1727 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
The Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies

The Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies is dedicated to increasing our knowledge of the culture, history, and institutions of the world’s major regions and countries.

The mission of the Academy Scholars Program is to train social scientists in area studies—focusing especially on areas of the world outside of the US or Canada.

The Academy’s premise is that the scholarly world needs individuals who combine thorough disciplinary and area specialization. The Academy Scholars Program was established to facilitate this goal. The Academy also organizes seminars and conferences, and supports Harvard University faculty research.

The Academy Scholars Program has been made possible through the generous support of the late Dr. Ira Kukin, founding benefactor of The Harvard Academy and Albert and Celia Weatherhead and the Weatherhead Foundation.

Applications are welcome from qualified persons regardless of race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, ancestry, age, veteran status, disability unrelated to job requirements, genetic information, military service, or other protected status.

The Senior Scholars

Sunil Amrith
Mehra Family Professor of South Asian Studies, Chair, Department of South Asian Studies, and Director, Joint Center for History and Economics

Melani Cammett
Chair, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs, and Professor in the Department of Global Health and Population

Steven Caton
Khalid Bin Abdullah Bin Abdulrahman Al Saud Professor of Contemporary Arab Studies (on leave fall 2018)

Timothy J. Colton
Morris and Anna Fel'dberg Professor of Government and Russian Studies

Grzegorz Ekiert
Laurence A. Tisch Professor of Government and Director, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (on leave spring 2019)

Nathan Nunn
Frederic E. Abbe Professor of Economics

Elizabeth J. Perry
Henry Rosovsky Professor of Government and Director, Harvard-Yenching Institute (on leave AY2018-2019)

Susan J. Pharr
Edwin O. Reischauer Professor of Japanese Politics and Director, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations (on leave spring 2019)

Ajantha Subramanian
Professor of Anthropology and Chair, Department of Anthropology

Odd Arne Westad
S.T. Lee Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations (on leave spring 2019)

Bruce V. Jackan
Harvard Academy Executive Officer

Kathleen Hoover
Harvard Academy Program Coordinator

The Academy Scholars Program
AY2019-2020

The Weatherhead Center for International Affairs
Harvard University