

TWAS Fellowships for Visiting Scholars/Visiting Researchers

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

PROGRAMME DETAILS

TWAS, the academy of sciences for the developing world – www.twas.org – is an autonomous international organization founded in Trieste, Italy, in 1983. TWAS represents the best of science in the developing world. Its principal aim is to promote scientific capacity and excellence for sustainable development in the South. Since 1986, TWAS has been supporting scientists and institutions in developing countries through a wide range of programmes that focus on scientific capacity building largely through South-South cooperation.

The administration and financial operation of TWAS is undertaken by UNESCO in accordance with an agreement signed by the two organizations.

Each year, the TWAS Fellowship Programme offers a number of visiting scholar/visiting researcher fellowships to scientists from developing countries to carry out advanced research in countries other than their own. The visiting scholar/visiting researcher fellowships are offered in collaboration with the following programme partners:

Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing, China – www.cas.ac.cn – is the highest academic institution and national comprehensive research and development centre in natural sciences and high-tech innovation in China. CAS also serves as the supreme national advisory body on science and technology. CAS has more than 80 research institutes distributed throughout the country as well as one university and one graduate school.

CAS and TWAS offer up to fifteen fellowships per year to visiting scholars/visiting researchers from developing countries (other than China) who wish to pursue advanced research in natural sciences.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Malaysia

The Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang, Malaysia – www.ips.usm.my – is a worldwide renowned institution of higher education that offers courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels to approximately 20,000 students at 24 schools and 33 centres located in three university campuses.

USM and TWAS offer up to 10 fellowships per year to visiting researchers from developing countries (other than Malaysia) who wish to carry out advanced research in natural sciences.

Summary of research fields covered by each programme:

Programme	Agricultural sciences	Biology	Chemistry	Earth sciences	Engineering sciences	Mathematics	Medical sciences	Physics
CAS, China	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
USM, Malaysia	√	√	√	-	√	√	√	√

√ = Fellowship offered in this subject area

- = Fellowship NOT offered in this subject area.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Applicants may apply for only **one** TWAS Fellowship per year. For example, applicants to the TWAS-CAS programme cannot also apply to the TWAS-USM Fellowships for Visiting Researchers or the TWAS Fellowships for Research and Advanced Training.

Applicants for the TWAS Fellowships for Research and Advanced Training should download the relevant application form (see www.twas.org, under the 'Programmes' tab or request it from fellowships@twas.org).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please check the eligibility criteria carefully, especially the age restrictions, timing of the start of the Fellowship and deadline for the submission of applications. See 'Additional information' sections for information regarding each programme. Remember, you can apply for only one Fellowship programme per year.

- The TWAS Fellowships for Visiting Scholars/Visiting Researchers will be granted in one of the fields of natural sciences for a minimum period of one (1) month to a maximum of three (3) months.
- Applicants must be regularly employed in a developing country (other than the one they intend to visit) and hold a research assignment there.
- Applicants already on site in the host country are **not** eligible.
- Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply.
- International travel (return economy class by the shortest route) and visa expenses will be covered by TWAS.
- All specific obligations, regulations, stipends etc will be thoroughly explained to successful candidates in the award letter/contract.
- Applicants must provide evidence that they will return to their home country upon completion of their Fellowships.
- Applicants **must submit an official Acceptance Letter from the host institution** (see sample on page 4) to TWAS and to CAS or USM, as appropriate, when applying, or by the deadline at the latest.
- The Fellowships do not include provisions for accompanying family members.
- Applications for part-time Fellowships will be considered ineligible.
- Incomplete/unsigned applications will **not** be accepted. This also applies to submissions by fax and electronic mail, which must include all enclosures and be signed (either digitally or by including a scanned signature).
- Successful applicants must not take up other assignments during the period of their Fellowships.
- Applications will be acknowledged once they have been processed.
- **Successful candidates will be notified by February of the year following the application.**
- TWAS shall be entitled to a repayment of all or part of any funds paid to an applicant hereunder, in the event that the applicant intentionally or negligently fails to fulfil any or all of the present conditions. The applicant agrees to pay any reasonable legal and/or collection costs incurred by TWAS to obtain the repayment.

DEADLINES

The call for applications is open from 1 March of each year until the following deadlines:

- TWAS-CAS Fellowships for Visiting Scholars: **31 August** (of each year).
- TWAS-USM Fellowships for Visiting Researchers: **15 September** (of each year).

NEW! STEP BY STEP GUIDELINES ON HOW TO APPLY

It is important to note that applicants cannot apply for fellowships tenable in their home country, i.e. Malaysian scientists cannot apply for a TWAS-USM fellowship, Chinese scientists are ineligible for TWAS-CAS fellowships. The same applies to applicants already in the host country.

In order to apply to the TWAS Fellowships programme each applicant is requested to follow the key steps indicated below:

1. WHICH PROGRAMME SHOULD I CHOOSE?

You should carefully read the "General information" and "Additional information" sections in the application forms and choose the most suitable fellowship programme for your research needs.

2. CHECK ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

After choosing a fellowship, you should verify that you are eligible and meet ALL the eligibility criteria specified in the application form for your chosen programme (e.g. age, nationality, post-doctoral experience etc.).

3. CHOOSE AN ELIGIBLE HOST INSTITUTE:

Select a suitable host institution under the fellowship you have chosen. In the application forms, under "additional information", you will find the website addresses leading to the lists of eligible host institutes/schools for each programme.

4. GET PRELIMINARY ACCEPTANCE:

Applying is subject to acceptance at a host institute. After choosing an eligible host institute, you must seek to obtain preliminary acceptance and a preliminary Acceptance Letter (see sample in the application form). To request a preliminary Acceptance Letter you must contact the chosen host institution via e-mail, fax or by sending a letter with your CV, research proposal and the sample copy of the Acceptance Letter provided in the application form. The Acceptance Letter must indicate the starting date the year following application, i.e. if applying in 2010, the letter must indicate 2011 as the starting date.

Obtaining preliminary acceptance at an eligible host institute is the responsibility of the applicant and applications cannot be processed if an Acceptance Letter is not received.

For CAS, requests for acceptance must be directed to the chosen host institution(s), and NOT to the programme partner.

Applications will not be considered without the preliminary acceptance letter from a host institution.

5. SUBMIT THE APPLICATION:

Once the preliminary Acceptance Letter has been received, you should submit to the TWAS Fellowships office (fellowships@twas.org) and to the other programme partner (i.e. CAS or USM) the completed application form by e-mail (as MS Word file) together with ALL the required enclosures in one zipped (compressed) electronic file. Alternatively, applications can be submitted by fax or by post.

It is advised to apply for the Acceptance Letter well in advance so that there is sufficient time for you to collate all required documents for submission by the deadline.

Preliminary acceptance letters and any other application documents are **not** accepted after the deadline.

An official acknowledgment will be sent confirming the status of your application once it has been processed and not upon receipt.

If awarded, the fellowship must be taken up in the following year of the application.

SAMPLE ACCEPTANCE LETTER FOR HOST INSTITUTIONS

It is important to note that applicants **MUST** already be accepted by a CAS-listed host institution in China or a USM school/department to be eligible for a TWAS Fellowship for Visiting Scholars/Visiting Researchers.

How to obtain the preliminary acceptance letter:

- 1) Identify a suitable host CAS institution or USM school/department (see english.cas.ac.cn/CASI/ or www.ips.usm.my).
- 2) Contact your selected host CAS institution or USM school/department or a potential host supervisor, providing your CV, research proposal and a copy of the sample acceptance letter (see below).

Signed acceptance letters must be sent to TWAS and the relevant programme partner (CAS or USM). The head of department or the coordinator of postgraduate studies at the HOST institution must sign the letter. Informal communication exchanged with potential host supervisors can be submitted, but it will **not** be considered as formal evidence of institutional acceptance.

<p>HOST INSTITUTION'S LETTERHEAD</p> <p>Department's name Institutional address Tel and fax numbers E-mail address</p> <p>[Place and Date]</p> <p>Dear _____ [candidate's name and surname] - _____ [country of citizenship],</p> <p>This is to inform you that, as a candidate for a visiting scholar/visiting researcher fellowship under the agreement established by TWAS and _____ [programme partner], you have been accepted for a _____ months* [length of time] visiting scholar/visiting researcher programme in _____ [field of specialization/academic programme], at this department/institution.</p> <p>If subsequently selected for a TWAS-_____ [programme partner] Fellowship, you should begin your studies/research in the _____ [indicate the year following year of application] and expect to conclude within _____ months* of the start. While researching at this institution, you will be under the supervision of Professor _____ [name and surname of supervisor, and e-mail address]. The topic for which you have been accepted to study at this institution is: _____.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p> <p>_____ Signature and name of head of department or postgraduate studies coordinator</p> <p><i>N.B. The letter cannot be accepted without a signature.</i></p>

<p>* Minimum duration: 1 month. Maximum duration: 3 months.</p> <p>IMPORTANT NOTE: The starting date on the acceptance letter must be the year following the application e.g. If you apply for a fellowship in 2010 the acceptance letter should show the starting date as 2011.</p>

Additional information: TWAS-CAS, China

TWAS-CAS Fellowships for Visiting Scholars

Deadline: 31 August

Programme Details

- TWAS-CAS Visiting Scholar Fellowships in natural sciences are tenable for a minimum period of one month to a maximum of three months at the research institutions of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.
- **Eligible CAS institutions:** More than 80 CAS institutes in China participate in this Fellowship programme. For a complete list please see: www.twas.org.cn and, in particular, english.cas.ac.cn/CASI/
- CAS will provide a standard monthly allowance which should be used to cover living costs, such as accommodation, food and health insurance. Only emergency medical aid will be available, if necessary. The monthly stipend will not be convertible into foreign currency.
- The language of instruction is English.

Eligibility

Applicants for these Fellowships must meet the following criteria:

- be a maximum age of 55 years on 31 December of the application year;
- be nationals of a developing country (other than China);
- hold a PhD degree in a field of the natural sciences and a regular research assignment **with at least five years of postdoctoral research experience**;
- be accepted at a CAS-listed institution participating in the scheme and provide an official acceptance letter from the host institution (see sample Acceptance Letter, page 4) to this effect. Requests for acceptance must be directed to the chosen CAS host institution(s), and NOT to CAS headquarters;
- provide evidence of proficiency in English or Chinese.

Submitting your application

The call for applications is open from 1 March until **31 August** of each year.

- Applicants should submit the acceptance letter from a CAS institution to CAS and TWAS when applying or by the deadline at the latest. Without preliminary acceptance, the application will **not** be considered for selection.
- Reference letters: Referees must send signed letters as attachments via e-mail directly to TWAS and CAS. The subject line must contain: CAS/VS/ candidate's surname. Alternatively, letters should be sent by post in sealed envelopes.
- Applicants to the **TWAS-CAS Visiting Scholar Fellowship Programme** should send their application to TWAS and CAS.

Important

- Incomplete/unsigned applications will NOT be accepted. This also applies to submissions by fax and email which must include all enclosures and be signed (either digitally or by including a scanned signature).
- Applications will ONLY be acknowledged when processed.
- Successful candidates will be notified by February of the year following the application.

CONTACT DETAILS

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TWAS Beijing Office
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Additional information: TWAS-USM, Malaysia

TWAS-USM Fellowships for Visiting Researchers

Deadline: 15 September

Programme Details

- TWAS-USM Visiting Researcher Fellowships in natural sciences are tenable for a minimum period of one month to a maximum of three months at a school/department of the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). For a complete list of schools and departments at USM see www.ips.usm.my.
- USM will provide a standard monthly allowance which should be used to cover living costs, such as accommodation, food and health insurance. The monthly stipend will not be convertible into foreign currency.
- The language of instruction is English.

Eligibility

Applicants for these Fellowships must meet the following criteria:

- be a maximum age of 55 years on 31 December of the application year;
- be nationals of a developing country (other than Malaysia);
- hold a PhD degree in a field of the natural sciences and a regular research assignment **with at least five years of postdoctoral research experience**;
- provide an official Acceptance Letter from a department, laboratory or institute at USM (see sample Acceptance Letter, page 4). Requests for acceptance must be directed to the Dean, Institute of Graduate Studies, USM (Prof. R. Hashim: by e-mail roshada@usm.my) who will facilitate assignment of a host supervisor. In contacting Prof. Hashim applicants **must** accompany their request for an Acceptance Letter with copy of their CV and a research proposal outline;
- provide evidence of proficiency in English.

Submitting your application

The call for applications is open from 1 March until **15 September** of each year.

- Applicants should submit the acceptance letter from a USM school/department to TWAS and USM when applying or by the deadline at the latest. Without preliminary acceptance, the application will **not** be considered for selection.
- Reference letters: Referees must send signed letters as attachments via e-mail directly to TWAS and USM. The subject line must contain: USM/VR/ candidate's surname. Alternatively, letters should be sent by post in sealed envelopes.
- Applicants to the **TWAS-USM Visiting Researcher Fellowship Programme** should send their application to TWAS and USM.

Important



- The deadline for receipt of applications is **15 September** of each year.
- Incomplete/unsigned applications will NOT be accepted. This also applies to submissions by fax and email which must include all enclosures and be signed (either digitally or by including a scanned signature).
- Applications will ONLY be acknowledged when processed.
- Successful candidates will be notified by February of the year following the application.

CONTACT DETAILS

TWAS Fellowships Office
ICTP campus, Strada Costiera 11
34151 Trieste, Italy
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TWAS South-South Fellowship programme partners

	<p>The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing, China – www.cas.ac.cn – is the highest academic institution and national comprehensive research and development centre in natural sciences and high-tech innovation in China. CAS also serves as the supreme national advisory body on science and technology. CAS has more than 80 research institutes and one university and one graduate school distributed throughout the country.</p>
	<p>The Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) – www.ips.usm.my – is a worldwide renowned institution of higher education that offers courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels to approximately 20,000 students at 24 schools and 33 centres located in three university campuses.</p>

**TWAS is grateful for the administrative and financial support provided by the above organizations in the implementation of the collaborative fellowship programmes.
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