



# *call for applications*

2025/26 FELLOWSHIPS

**Application Deadline: 31 December 2024**

The “*Recalibrating Afrikanistik*” (*RecAf*) project invites young researchers and lecturers working in the field of African Studies to apply for fellowships at the participating universities (**University of Bayreuth** (Germany), **University of Naples 'L'Orientale'** (Italy), **University of Leipzig** (Germany), **Moi University** (Kenya), **Stellenbosch University** (South Africa), **Federal University of Wukari** (Nigeria)), as well as ‘Remote Fellowships’.

RecAf offers fellowships lasting from **three to six months**. The fellowship should take place between mid-2025 and mid-2026. Eligible for the fellowships are doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers at all levels, as well as advanced MA students, who will be given the unique opportunity to work on or develop their own research project. Fellows are fully funded with a modest scholarship (travel, accommodation, daily allowance, health insurance, visa).

**The fellowships can be taken up in one of two ways:**



## *classic fellowships*

at one of the European or African universities listed above where each fellow will work on his/her individual project and will be matched with a mentor from one of the six universities. Fellows might be asked for a modest teaching contribution, dependent on their thematic and conceptual specialisation.



## *remote fellowships*

will be granted to applicants unable to travel for certain reasons (Covid-19 restrictions, childcare, etc.). They complete their fellowship at their current residence and will be included virtually in upcoming activities and exchange, i.e. the monthly RecAf Reading Group or workshops for application preparation at Leipzig University.



## how to apply

All applications/proposals should clearly reflect the applicant's research profile and must demonstrate the candidate's proposed contribution to the project '**Recalibrating Afrikanistik**'. The applicant should select the kind of fellowship (*Classic* or *Remote*), the preferred duration and thoroughly explain that choice as well as reflect on why the respective fellowship will be beneficial.

In case of Classic Fellowships, please specify which would be your preferred university for the fellowship. However, we reserve the right to advise on your choice, according to which context suits your proposal best.

All proposals must clarify how the project addresses interdisciplinarity with African/Area Studies and show innovative potential for a Recalibrated Afrikanistik. The proposal should address one of the following themes:

- + **language and text (in a broad sense) as knowledge practice**
- + **linguistic and textual practices (incl. orature, translation, media, popular culture) as access to heterogeneous and heterotopic bodies of knowledge**
- + **critical approaches to language and/or literature and verbal arts**

## application requirements

- a **cover letter** explaining how your project is relevant for Recalibrating Afrikanistik
- an **outline** of not more than 800 words (2 pages) of the research project you are proposing as a fellow
- an **academic CV**

Applications will be accepted in English, German, French, or Kiswahili.

Please upload all documents as a single pdf file using the online application form. [Click here for the application form.](#)

Application deadline is **31 December 2024**. Applicants will be notified by 31 March 2025.

For further information and questions contact Ojo Blank (recafeuni-leipzig.de).

## about recaf

The aim of "**Recalibrating Afrikanistik**" is to thematically and strategically set the ground for the future of the study of African languages and literatures, in order to realize its full potential by bringing in its unique contribution to academia, African studies at large, as well as the humanities and to reach out into European society. Also, in decentralizing academia, the inclusion of southern epistemologies has become an urgent demand, which RecAf is answering to. Our vision for RecAf lies in moving away from an emphasis on linguistic structures, still prevalent in Afrikanistik today, to a focus on linguistic, literary and media practices in Africa as well as to engage in a critical reflection on existing modes of knowledge production.

**In this project, the six aforementioned universities aim to foster academic exchange and support and promote young scholars from European and African universities, to give them the opportunity to develop their own ideas and to engage in dialogues that can shape the future of the discipline.**

