



AAS Fellowship Nomination

Guide for Nomination Process

## Introduction

### The African Academy of Sciences Fellowship

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) recognizes scientific excellence by electing to its membership outstanding scholars who have attained the highest level of excellence in their scientific field and have made significant contributions to the advancement of science regionally and globally. AAS Fellows are elected for life through a rigorous peer review process on the basis of excellence in their publications record, innovations, leadership roles and contribution to policy and society.

There is no age limit and AAS encourages nomination of female scientists and deserving scholars from under-represented disciplines. Candidates may be nominated from all scientific disciplines grouped into ten AAS scientific clusters: Agricultural & Nutritional Sciences; Biosciences; Chemical Sciences; Cultural Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences; Geological, Environmental, Earth & Space Sciences; Materials Science; Mathematical Sciences; Medical & Health Sciences; Physical Sciences; Policy Sciences.

### Categories of AAS Fellows

- ✚ **Fellows** are elected from among active and outstanding African scientists residing in Africa or elsewhere, non-African scientists who have taken citizenship of an African nation, and Africa-born scientists who have taken citizenship outside Africa and have attained the highest international standards and/or have made significant contribution to the development and application of science, technology and innovation in Africa as well as in the development of other scientists.
- ✚ **Associate Fellows** are elected from among active and outstanding non-African scientists residing elsewhere or in Africa and who have attained the highest international standards and/or have made significant contribution to the development and application of science, technology and innovation in Africa as well as in the development of other scientists. To be nominated in this category, the candidate must demonstrate contributions to African science e.g., through supervision and mentorship of African researchers, collaboration with African researchers, and/or significant publications and scientific outputs with key contribution by African scientists.
- ✚ **Honorary Fellows** are elected from amongst persons of eminence from around the world who have made significant contribution to the vision of the AAS to 'transform lives through science'.

### Benefits and Obligations of AAS Fellows and Associate Fellows

- ✚ Recognition for one's outstanding contribution to development of science, technology and innovation on the African continent.
- ✚ The honor of being elected into a continental academy and displaying the prestigious title Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (FAAS) after their name and/or signature.
- ✚ Form the General Assembly (GA), the highest and ultimate decision-making governance organ of The AAS to which the Governing Council (GC) is responsible.
- ✚ Enable the Academy to achieve its tripartite mandate of recognizing excellent individuals; providing advisory and think tank functions for shaping the continent's strategies and policies; and implementing key science, technology and innovation programmes.
- ✚ Lead in policy formulation and engage with governments and policy makers towards the promotion of science, technology and innovation on the continent and globally
- ✚ Serve in various Scientific Working Groups in line with AAS strategic plan.
- ✚ Serve as members of expert review panels, steering committees, Governing Council and its sub-committees, and other activities of the AAS and partner organizations.
- ✚ Contribute to recruiting deserving and diverse scholars to AAS Fellowships through nominations, peer review committees, elections, and participation in the AAS General Assembly.
- ✚ Pay membership fees comprising of a joining fee of USD \$100 and subsequent annual subscription fee of USD \$50.
- ✚ It is expected that every fellow should nominate at least one woman, and all women Fellows are encouraged to nominate two women.

## **Nomination requirements for Fellows**

Only AAS Fellows and Associate Fellows can nominate candidates to the AAS Fellowship. One Fellow/Associate Fellow nominates and each nomination is seconded by another Fellow/Associate Fellow. Prospective nominees must meet the following requirements:

### **Requirements:**

#### **To be considered for nomination into AAS Fellowship, candidates must:**

- ✚ Must have obtained a PhD or equivalent qualification no less than 10 years before the year of nomination
- ✚ Have an H-index of 20 and above in either of (Scopus, Google Scholar, Web of science and ResearchGate) and not necessarily all. However, this is NOT applicable to social scientists.
- ✚ Have at least one journal article with 100 or more citations.
- ✚ Be a first author, senior or corresponding author or last author in at least 50% of the 10 submitted articles.
- ✚ Candidates for Associate Fellows who are members of an Academy in their home country or region will have an added advantage.

#### **Candidates for Associate Fellowship must:**

- ✚ Demonstrate contributions that they have made to Africa. For example, they can demonstrate supervision of several African masters and doctoral students and published papers based on research in Africa with a substantial number of the African research papers having African first authors. Special consideration will be made to the associate fellows who are Social Scientists regarding publishing of papers. (See Annex 1)
- ✚ Be currently active and if not, clearly state on the form, what contribution they would make to the advancement of science and/or scholarship in Africa.
- ✚ Demonstrate outstanding scientific leadership and citizenship and, if applicable, contribution to policy.
- ✚ Demonstrate evidence of recognition by their peers in the field such as active peer review of journal articles, membership of scientific advisory committees, invited lectures, awards, prizes, membership in other academies or professional bodies. Peer review for Social Scientists will not be limited to journal articles. (See Annex 1)

## **Annex 1**

**Publications:** Just like scientists, law professors publish articles, but they might also publish books, chapters in books, legislative drafting and reports. These publications are often in law reviews or other legal journals.

**Citations in publications:** Other legal scholars, practitioners, and even judges might cite these publications in their own work, showing that they find them valuable.

**Judicial Opinions:** Judges write opinions on the cases they decide. These opinions can be influential if they are well-reasoned and address important legal issues.

**Citations by Other Courts:** Other judges and courts might cite these judicial opinions in their own decisions, showing that they find them persuasive or authoritative.

**High-Profile Cases and Wins:** Description: A lawyer who has successfully handled high-profile or landmark cases that are frequently cited or referenced in legal discussions, academic literature, or subsequent case law.

**Influential Legal Opinions and Amicus Briefs:** Authoring or contributing to influential legal opinions or amicus briefs that have been cited or used in significant court ruling

## **The Nomination Process**

The African Academy of Sciences accepts nominations for Fellows in the first half of each year. A nomination call is sent out to all The AAS Fellows and Associate Fellows. A notification also goes out to non-Fellows informing them of the open call. Only current AAS Fellows and Associate Fellows can submit nominations. Self-nomination is not accepted but as indicated below, interested individuals may request a Fellow or Associate Fellow of AAS to nominate them. The call remains open for two months.

The AAS reiterates its goal to admit more women into the Fellowship. All Fellows are expected to nominate at least one woman and women Fellows are highly encouraged to nominate two women.

Nominations are submitted on the AAS Ishango Online System. Please follow this link:

<https://aasishango.ccrantracker.com/>

The nomination process for all Fellowship categories (Fellow / Associate Fellow / Honorary Fellow) is as follows:  
Nominating Fellows or Associate Fellows

**1. As a Prospective Nominee:**

This is where a prospective candidate for AAS Fellowships directly approaches an AAS Fellow to nominate them.

- Search the AAS Fellows Database for Fellows who qualify to submit a compelling nomination on your behalf.
- If you don't have their contacts, contact the Secretariat via [fellows@aasciences.africa](mailto:fellows@aasciences.africa) to introduce you to the suggested Fellows. *Requests to Secretariat for introductions to Fellows MUST be received not less than a month to the deadline of the Call for Nominations as the process of nomination requires adequate time on the part of the Nominating Fellow.*
- Upon introduction to the Fellow, provide adequate information about your scientific achievements that will enable them to make the decision on whether to nominate you or not.
- Once the nomination process has been initiated, be proactive in supporting your Nominator to complete the nomination form. Incomplete nomination forms shall not be considered.

**2. As an AAS Fellow/Associate Fellow:**

You can either nominate candidates you already know or accept to nominate candidates who approach you through the secretariat.

- Inform the nominee of your intention to nominate them and request them to provide you with the necessary document as indicated in the Nomination Dossier below.
- Initiate the nomination process on the AAS Ishango Online System by filling in the required information.
- Upon filling in the details of your nominee, they receive an email to log into the system and provide additional information to complete the process.
- Seek another Fellow to second your nomination
- Complete all the fields in the nomination form, validate and submit the form.
- An email is sent to you upon submitting your nomination.

**Nomination Dossier**

These are the documents that comprise a complete nomination and MUST be uploaded on the AAS Ishango Online System.

- A completed online Nomination Form endorsed by the Nominator and Nominee and seconded by another Fellow.
- An updated Curriculum Vitae of the Nominee.
- Five (5) soft copies of the Nominee's best publications
- Letters from three of the Nominee's referees

**Review Process**

A Membership Advisory Committee (MAC) is set-up for each of the ten (10) AAS scientific clusters through which the nominations undergo a rigorous peer-review process. Nominees are reviewed based on their scientific excellence, leadership and citizenship using various indicators such as publications, authorship, patents, commitment to advancing science in Africa, mentorship and supervision roles, recognition by peers, science advocacy, leadership positions held and responsibilities, innovations, contribution to policy.

- Stage One: MACs review all nominations in their respective discipline and prepare a review report.
- Stage Two: Based on the MACs review report, Fellows vote on recommended candidates.
- Stage Three: Membership and Nominations sub-Committee (MNC) reviews the MACs review reports and Voting Results and advises the Governing Council on election of successful Nominees.
- Stage Four: The Governing Council elects successful Nominees into the AAS Fellowship.
- Stage Five: Newly elected Fellows are inducted at the next AAS General Assembly where they are also required to pay their membership joining fee of USD \$100.

Nominees who receive positive review during the first review stage but do not pass the final stages for election into Fellowship will have their nominations active for three (3) consecutive years during which time they will be re-considered for review each subsequent year. The nominators and nominees for whom this is applicable will be informed of this in the outcome letter and are requested to update the CVs in subsequent years. If still unsuccessful after the three years, a fresh nomination will have to be submitted. Other unsuccessful candidates will have to be re-nominated.

### **3. Nominating Honorary Fellows**

- Prospective candidates are nominated and seconded by a minimum of two Fellows.
- The Membership and Nominations sub-Committee reviews all nominations and makes recommendations to the Governing Council.
- The Governing Council elects successful Nominees.
- Elected Honorary Fellows are inducted at the next General Assembly and hold one-on-one engagement meetings with the Governing Council

Contact for support: Please contact [fellows@aasciences.africa](mailto:fellows@aasciences.africa) if you need any clarification