



THE MAWAZO INSTITUTE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2023 MAWAZO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Equipping African women PhD researchers to participate in the future of research,
policy, leadership and development in Africa
Deadline: Sunday 12 March 2023, 11:59pm EAT

OVERVIEW

The Mawazo Institute is a women-led African organisation that supports early-career women researchers as they work to find local solutions to global development challenges. Our mission is to support the big ideas of early-career women researchers and thought leaders in Africa to strengthen their research, public engagement, and influence on development of the continent. We envision a world in which the voices and big ideas of African women researchers shape the future of the continent and the world.

Our programmes support the generation and uptake of homegrown evidence-based solutions to pressing development needs. We provide our beneficiaries with a package of support that builds essential non-technical research and professional skills, deepens their networks, and helps them access mentorship from both peers and experts. Importantly, we support them to develop their leadership potential, including personal leadership and wellbeing, and visibility within and outside the academy.

For more information about our work and impact so far, please visit our [website](#) or download the [2021 Annual Report](#).



MAWAZO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The **Mawazo Fellowship Programme** unlocks the potential of African women to conduct high quality research and contribute to issues affecting Africa's development. Our Fellows are African women who are pursuing PhD studies in any field at an accredited African university. We competitively select a cohort of 40 Fellows whose research is relevant to African development priorities, contributes new knowledge to their field of study, and holds the potential for transformational change in their communities, and beyond. Specifically, we support Fellows whose work is actively addressing global, regional, national and/or sub-national development and policy priorities, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Mawazo Fellowship Programme is a 15-month, non-residential fellowship where Mawazo Fellows participate in a virtual training programme that features professional development courses designed by the Mawazo Institute. Fellows also benefit from mentorship and networking to enhance their career progression, financial support for research activities, and platforms for policy outreach and public engagement that increase their visibility and potential for impact. This programme is designed to build a network of African women experts who are poised to influence policy and public discourse in academia and beyond, increasing the application and implementation of practical, evidence-based ideas that drive Africa's development.

Beyond the Fellowship, all Fellows who successfully complete the programme automatically become a member of the Mawazo Connects network and will continue to receive support from Mawazo including access to the Mawazo Connects Fund, continued visibility, and access to impact and implementation pathways through our growing network of partners including: (1) communication and media partners (e.g., newspapers, radio channels, science magazines); (2) international development partners; (3) industry partners (including impact investors); (4) research and innovation partners; (5) government and public policy actors, and; (6) universities and higher education institutions.



For the 2023 cohort, we encourage applications from PhD students working in the following thematic areas:

- Agriculture and Food Security
- Business, Trade, and the Economy
- Climate Change, Natural Resources, and the Environment
- Education and Pedagogy
- Energy and Engineering
- Gender, Rights, and Governance
- Information and Technology
- Life and Health Sciences
- Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Please note that working in any of these thematic areas is not an eligibility criterion, and applicants from other fields are more than welcome to apply.

The call for applications for the 2023 cohort of Mawazo Fellows will be open from **30th January 2023 to 12th March 2023, 11:59pm EAT**. Eligible applicants are invited to apply following the instructions below.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for the Mawazo Fellowship Programme, applicants must

- i. identify as a woman¹
- ii. be citizens of an African country
- iii. have a good command of written and spoken English²
- iv. be enrolled for their PhD at an accredited university in an African country
- v. have completed their course work if applicable and passed their departmental or graduate school proposal defence (i.e., in the dissertation/thesis phase of their PhD)
- vi. demonstrate that their PhD research is related to African development and is relevant to a global, regional, national or subnational policy priority
- vii. demonstrate that they have a “Big Idea” to transform Africa through their research³
- viii. demonstrate potential for leadership both within and outside academia, and a strong passion to leverage their expertise for impact in society
- ix. be available to fully participate in the programme in 2023-2024

1 woman/women includes cisgender women and transgender women. We also welcome AFAB non-binary, AFAB gender non-conforming, and other AFAB genderqueer individuals, who have historically been excluded from decision-making spaces.

2 Whilst all training and networking will be conducted in English for this cohort, Mawazo is actively working on being able to translate its training material and identify partners and mentors who are fluent in Arabic, French and Portuguese for future cohorts to ensure the inclusion of Francophone, Lusophone and Arab speaking Africa, ensuring representation of the entire continent within Mawazo’s network of African women researchers.

3 By “Big Idea” we mean an innovative research-based solution to help address Africa’s emerging societal challenges.

4 Fellows can apply for up to four grants (every quarter) worth up to US\$2,500 each. Each grant application is screened and competitively awarded after a thorough selection procedure for each cycle and is not guaranteed.

BENEFITS

Mawazo Fellows will receive the following benefits

- **Participation in Mawazo's in-house virtual training and professional development programme**, offered through the Mawazo Learning Exchange (MLEx) e-learning platform
- **Connections to expert and peer mentors** through a structured mentorship programme, as well as **exposure to leaders** from academia, industry, government and other sectors
- **Funding** for research activities with access to grants worth up to US\$2,500 through the **Mawazo Fellows Fund**⁴
- **A stipend** worth \$500 for discretionary use
- **Data bundles** worth \$150 to help access the MLEx platform
- **Research and editorial** support from the Mawazo staff and our partners
- **Visibility via Mawazo Voices**, our public policy and engagement, and strategic communications programme

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested candidates are required to fill in and submit their applications via our online [application portal](#). Applications will not be accepted by email or in hard copy.

For instructions on how to use our online platform, complete your application and meet all the requirements required for consideration, please download the [Application Guidelines](#) here.

For additional information with regards to the programme and the application process, please download our [FAQs document](#).

SELECTION

All applications will be reviewed by the Mawazo Institute staff and a committee of external expert reviewers.

Successful applicants will demonstrate that they can do the following

- Meet all eligibility requirements
- Identify a research problem which has important implications for African development and is linked to a global, regional, national or subnational policy priority
- Demonstrate that their PhD research is academically rigorous and addresses a unique and important gap in the field
- Demonstrate that their PhD research has clear objectives and is appropriately designed for the research questions being asked
- Write a summary of their PhD research which is clear, concrete, and accessible to scholars outside their own field

The Mawazo Institute is committed to non-discrimination in the application review process.

PRIVACY NOTICE

The Mawazo Institute is committed to protecting, respecting, and being transparent about your privacy. This Privacy Notice is set on the basis of all personal data collected from you, or that you provide to us, or that will be processed by us in connection to our Mawazo Fellowship Programme recruitment process.

This personal data is submitted directly to the Mawazo Institute through an online application process in confidence and will not be released to any third parties without consent, except to those involved in recruitment activities and administration of the programme.

By submitting your personal data to us, you acknowledge that you have read and understood this Privacy Notice, and agree to the use of your personal data.

The Mawazo Institute will hold all personal data in confidence and will not release it to any third parties without consent, except to those involved in the evaluation of the applicants and administration of the programme.

DEADLINE

The due date for the application is **11.59 pm EAT on 12th March 2023**.

Applicants will receive a final decision on the status of their application in late April 2023 and the fellowship year will commence shortly afterwards.

For questions pertaining to the application portal, please contact our programme staff on fellowship@mawazoinstitute.org.

