



Small Grants Program
“Nation, Identity and History: Towards New Agendas”
Cycle 1 (2024)

Frequently Asked Questions

In terms of nationality and citizenship, who is eligible to apply to this program?

This call is open to:

- 1) Citizens of an Arab country (defined as a country belonging to the League of Arab States),
- 2) Refugees and/or stateless individuals from Arab countries residing in the Arab region,
- 3) Researchers residing outside the Arab region who hold Arab citizenship or are refugees and/or stateless individuals from the Arab region, and
- 4) Applicants residing outside the Arab region who carry a non-Arab passport but are originally from an Arab country.

Must the researcher reside in the Arab region throughout the project duration?

No, applicants do not have to reside in the Arab region during the project.

I have an MA degree. Am I eligible to apply to this program?

No, this program targets only:

- 1) Scholars who are 0-3 years out of a PhD program in the social sciences or humanities (obtained from within or outside the Arab region). Applicants should have obtained their PhDs at the time of application. Applicants who received their PhD **before the year 2021** are not eligible to apply to this program.
- 2) PhD students at advanced stages of their studies in the social sciences or humanities (dissertation write up stage) enrolled at universities within or outside the Arab region. PhD students should provide evidence that they have finished their course-work, their thesis topic has been approved and they are advanced in writing their dissertation.

Do I have to be a historian to apply to this program?

No, the Small Grants Program is open to any discipline in the social sciences and humanities and allied and interdisciplinary fields. Core disciplines include anthropology, demography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, philosophy, literary studies and art history. Allied and interdisciplinary fields include architecture, geography, education, law, public health, gender studies, cultural studies, media studies, development studies and urban studies.

What activities could my proposal include?

This program supports research proposals based on new or ongoing projects, including:

- Initial or "pilot" phase of a new project,
- Specific phase of ongoing projects combining fieldwork and analysis, and
- Proposals to develop previous projects, for example seeking new cases and field sites.

Does my project have to be based on fieldwork?

Proposals can be based on fieldwork or archival research or write-up and analysis of already collected data.

Can I access Constantine Zurayk's archives online?

The program encourages applicants who wish to work on the Constantine Zurayk Archive. However, to do that, you need to access the archive from the library on the American University of Beirut's campus in Beirut. That said, using the archive is not a requirement for proposal acceptance.

Am I required to focus exclusively on Constantine Zurayk?

No, your project may or may not focus on Constantine Zurayk. Your proposal could address Constantine Zurayk's legacy. This could be work on the archived collection mentioned above, and/or the study of some aspects of Zurayk's work. Alternatively, your project could explore the notions of nation, identity and history broadly construed and based on other theories and methods: feminist, transnational, postcolonial cultural, and indigenous (among others) that have pushed conceptions of nation, identity, and history and questioned both the significance of these categories, the power they carry, and their meanings both on a global and intimate levels. The ACSS is particularly interested in scholars whose research pushes the bounds of these themes both theoretically and methodologically. Candidates are encouraged to utilize a broad range of scholarly methods and approaches in their projects, and should not be limited to disciplinary or regional boundaries.

Does the budget include a stipend for the researcher? And can I hire a research assistant to help me with the project?

Yes, the budget may include a stipend for the researcher and you can hire a research assistant. However, both the stipend and research assistance should not account for more than 25% of the overall budget.

Am I allowed to seek additional funding from other institutions for this project?

Yes, you can have additional funding however, the budget in the application should clearly indicate whether other sources of funding are already available or have been applied for and which items would be fully or partially covered by other sources. The Selection Committee and the ACSS staff will review each budget on a case-by-case basis.

In case, after receiving the grant - the grantee is offered funding from any other sources, he/she is obliged to communicate the exact terms and conditions of the offer to the ACSS Secretariat and seek approval. The ACSS will examine the offer and reach an agreement with the grantee that is to his/her best interest. In principle, however, the grantee cannot accept any funding from any other organization for the items covered by the ACSS during the grant period. In case the second offer covers the same items as those covered by the ACSS, the grantee may then have to choose between the two grants. The ACSS will contact the other funding agency to make sure that the terms are clear to all sides.

What does the budget cover? What does it NOT cover?

The budget may include fieldwork expenses (field accommodation, travel and transportation related to the research, and living expenses), consultations to develop the project, purchase of research equipment and other supplies as well as stipend for PI and/or research assistance (maximum of 25% of the proposed budget).

The budget cannot include: travel expenses for conference participation or registration fees and participation in workshops. The overall budget cannot exceed USD3,000.

The Grants and Fellowships Unit at the Arab Council for the Social Sciences will review each budget on a case-by-case basis. Please note that the total and detailed approved budget may not necessarily correspond to the one requested.

What are examples of possible outputs?

Outputs may include, but are not limited to, research papers and/or articles for publication, archival studies, book manuscripts, blogs or e-zine essays, proposals for funding a new project, chapters in a dissertation, pedagogical resources and digital archives or databases. In addition, the ACSS requires grantees to produce a working paper within the ACSS Working Papers Series.

What do you mean by ethical considerations?

Applicants must demonstrate that they are aware of the ethical implications of their project starting from field-work to dissemination of findings. Ethical considerations include obtaining informed consent, ensuring confidentiality, respecting participants' rights, avoiding harm, and being mindful of cultural and research contexts. Researchers must address these in their proposals and follow ethical guidelines for archival materials if their research is based on archival research.

Click [here](#) to access the ACSS Research Ethics for the Social Sciences in the Arab Region – ACSS Guidelines.

What are the criteria according to which my application will be assessed?

Proposals should include the following components:

- Background and significance of the research
- Research problem and research questions
- Theoretical framework
- Literature review
- Methodology and ethical considerations.

Do I have to participate in the Seventh Conference of the Arab Council for the Social Sciences, that will be held in Spring 2025?

Yes, this is a grant requirement. The ACSS will cover accommodation and travel cost for your participation at the conference.

If my application is not accepted by the selection committee, will you let me know the specific reasons for rejection?

No, due to the high number of applications we receive, we will not be able to explain reasons for rejection.