**INFORMATION SHEET FOR THE ACM RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP 2020-2021**

1. **Research proposal**
* The research proposal should be no more than 2,000 words. It should clearly outline the area of study and justify how the proposal is relevant to the ACM or TPM, the field, and the researcher’s own work.
* The research should be clearly related to the **collections** at the ACM or TPM.
* We prize multi-disciplinary work, cross-cultural studies, and research that resonate with ACM and TPM’s curatorial approaches and themes.
* If the proposal is part of a larger project or a collaborative work with another scholar or institution, this should be explained in the application.
* The Research Fellow is required to **submit a report** at the end of the fellowship period. This will consist of a detailed report of findings, methodologies and challenges. It will be presented to the head of research and senior curatorial team within 1 month of the end date. This report will be deposited at the ACM’s resource library.
* Research fellows are expected to present a **public lecture** based on their work in progress and **lead a seminar** for ACM staff.
1. **Eligibility**

Applicants should have a PhD or be in the final stages of their dissertation. In addition, applicants with equivalent research qualifications and experience will be considered. Applicants should have completed the bulk of their field work on their proposed projects, and be able to write and present papers in English.

1. **Stipend**
* The monthly stipend for overseas researchers is S$5,000. Overseas researchers are also offered a one-time grant of S$3,000 as a relocation allowance.
* Researchers who are based in Singapore will receive a monthly stipend of S$3,500.
* Research fellows are liable for local taxes according to Singapore’s tax regulations. Please refer to the FAQ section for more details.
1. **Award period and length of fellowship**

The standard duration of the fellowship is nine months (academic year). Candidates may also apply for a period of six months.

The start and finish of the award period is flexible, though successful candidates must commence their fellowships within the year of the award (viz. end of 2020 at the latest)

1. **Reporting**

Research fellows are required to spend most of their time in the ACM or at libraries and research facilities in Singapore. They should participate in the museum’s programmes and interact with curators and other staff.

1. **Selection process and criteria**

Applications will be evaluated for their connection with the ACM or TPM’s collection, their originality, creativity, and how the proposed projects bear upon the overall themes of the Museum. In general, applicants may not hold another grant during the period of the ACM research fellowship.

**Application instructions**

1. Electronic applications should be submitted to nhb\_acm\_rpu@nhb.gov.sg Attachments should not exceed 10MB in total.
2. The application package should include:
3. Completed application form
4. Research proposal
5. Proof of completion of a doctoral degree (if a PhD candidate, proof of completion of the more important degree)
6. Recommendations from two referees in support of the application and research proposal. Referee should state how long and in what capacity he/she has known the applicant and evaluate the scholarly merit of the proposed research project, as well as the applicant’s research potential. Referees can also send the letters directly to nhb\_acm\_rpu@nhb.gov.sg
7. A writing sample or copy of a chapter of the dissertation in English.
8. Candidates will receive email acknowledgements of their applications. They will be informed of the results by the end of March 2020.

**Applications close on 31 January 2020**

Incomplete and late applications will not be considered.

For enquiries, please contact the ACM’s Research Unit at nhb\_acm\_rpu@nhb.gov.sg

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**How may I learn more about the ACM’s collection?**

The ACM published parts of its collection in *The* *Asian Civilisations Museum: A-Z Guide* in 2003 (reprinted 2006). An *ACM Treasure*s publication was published in 2017. A similar guide to the Peranakan Museum was published in 2008 (reprinted 2013). Various exhibition catalogues highlight specific areas of the collection as well. The website <https://roots.sg/learn/collections> presents objects from the collection of the ACM and TPM, although this is not comprehensive.

**What are the resources in Singapore available for my research?**

The ACM offers the use of its library and collection as the primary resources to the scholar.

**Will airfare be covered?**

Overseas scholars will receive a one-time relocation allowance of S$3,000, which includes airfare allowance. This relocation allowance will be given to the research fellow within the first week after the start of the fellowship.

**Is accommodation provided on top of the stipend?**

Accommodation is not provided. The stipend amount goes towards all discretionary expenses in Singapore, including accommodation, meals, local transport, medical insurance, etc. Stipends will be paid within seven days after the end of each completed month.

**Does ACM provide hostel accommodation?**

The ACM does not provide hostel accommodation. Research fellows are responsible for arranging their own accommodation.

**May I ship my belongings to the ACM?**

The ACM does not accept personal belongings and cannot be liable for them.

**Do I need a special visa to enter Singapore?**

Visitors from most countries do not need a special visa to enter Singapore, except for the countries listed on the website of the Singapore Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (<http://www.ica.gov.sg/services_centre_overview.aspx?pageid=252&secid=165>). The Singapore tourist visa is usually given for 30 days; within 30 days the research fellow should be able to collect their employment pass card.

**When should I travel to Singapore in the event that I am awarded the fellowship?**

Once the candidate is informed of his/her successful application, the National Heritage Board will arrange for the employment pass. As the award is subject to the successful application of the employment pass, it is not advisable for the research fellow to travel to Singapore until the employment pass is granted. Research fellows will be informed when the employment pass has been obtained, and at that time they can start making their travel arrangements.

**Will I be taxed on the stipend?**

Yes, research fellows are held liable to pay local taxes according to tax regulations in Singapore. The stipend for the final month will be withheld for a period of 30 days for taxation purposes. The withheld amount after taxes, will be returned to the research fellow after tax clearance from the local tax authority, the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS). Please refer to the website of IRAS for more information:

https://www.iras.gov.sg/irashome/Other-Taxes/Withholding-tax/