

CENTRAL ASIA AND CAUCASUS RESEARCH AND TRAINING INITIATIVE invites applications for Junior and Senior Fellowships for 2012-2014

The **International Higher Education Support Program (HESP)** promotes the advancement of university teaching and learning in the humanities and social sciences throughout the region of South-East Europe and Eurasia. As part of HESP's effort to promote the internationalization of scholarship and development of indigenous capacities for independent and critical academic work in the region, the **Central Asia and Caucasus Research and Training Initiative (CARTI)** provides support and training for original research by young university-based academics in their home academic environment. The program targets the scholars in the early stages of their postgraduate training and recent graduates of doctoral programs in the post-Soviet countries of South Caucasus and Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia.

CARTI seeks to assist the motivated young academics who are in crucial early stages of their careers to gain critical competence with the foundational and current scholarship and active involvement in international intellectual exchange and debate in their subject areas. With the support of CARTI, the Fellows engage state-of-the-art resources, theories, methodologies and approaches to their research and teaching in the subjects and areas of importance to the academic and social development in the region.

CARTI is committed to enrichment and innovation in higher education in the humanities and social sciences and emphasizes the significance of original and critical scholarly work in the development of university teaching and curricula.

CARTI FELLOWSHIPS

Junior Fellowships support the individuals in early stages of their formal Doctoral studies (such as *aspirantura*) and focus on development of ideas and skills for original academic research. Junior Fellowships provide a medium for testing and challenging the theories, methods and assumptions in the core of the individual research agendas, while at the same time guiding and assisting the Fellows in their first independent research efforts.

Senior Fellowships are available to young scholars who have recently received their first Doctoral (e.g. *Candidate of Science*) degrees. The Fellowships support innovative and critical research agendas and development of international research and teaching partnerships with special emphasis on presentation of scholarly work and integrating the new scholarly thinking and outcomes and experience of research into teaching.

The program provides the Fellows with the opportunities for:

- enhancing familiarity with the state-of-the-art in their disciplines and association with the current thinking in their fields, by improving access to seminal scholarship, relevant international expertise and contemporary debates within the international scholarly community;
- conducting individual and collaborative original, innovative and high quality research with critical discussion and peer feedback on the research process and outcomes, enhanced by advanced training in and practice of research design and contemporary methodologies and tools of academic research;
- applying research experience and outcomes to development of teaching and curriculum at the region's universities and promoting research as an integral part of students' learning;
- peer collaboration and mobility on regional and international level;
- development of skills and venues for publicizing scholarly work.

All CARTI Junior and Senior Fellows work in collaborative partnerships with individually appointed **CARTI International Scholars**. The International Scholars can be proposed by the Fellows or selected by CARTI and are advanced academics, prominent in the fields of scholarship relevant to the Fellows' projects, who represent universities outside the program's target region. The International Scholars advise and collaborate with the Fellows in enhancing their research projects at the planning stages and in the course of their implementation by offering feedback and critique, and through joint research activities, discussion of sources, methods, progress and findings of the research. CARTI supports the program of exchange visits between Fellows and International Scholars. The International Scholars assist the Fellows in accessing the relevant resources and facilities at their home institutions and facilitate their contacts with international academic networks.

CARTI is open to support **academic research in a wide range of subjects and topics in the humanities and social sciences**. The proposed projects will typically be concerned with the study, revision and application of the foundational scholarly thinking to

analysis and explanation of specific issues and research questions, rather than aim at policy development or implementation. The program strongly encourages and helps develop original and innovative research agendas that have the bearing on the important issues within the communities and societies of the scholar's country and wider region and research of comparative nature. The supported projects can also pursue critical exploration and original interpretations of the foundational scholarship in the academic subjects, as well as the study of other regions and countries of the world, that have pronounced relevance for developing the scholarly explanations of region-specific issues and phenomena. CARTI makes a special effort to create spaces for and support for interdisciplinary discussion and research. While CARTI supports research and teaching in the local languages, **operational knowledge of English and ability to work with academic resources and participate in training activities in the English language** is highly desirable and considered an advantage in the selection process.

CARTI Fellowships are awarded for up to 24 months, with on-going review and evaluation procedure in place. **A Fellowship typically offers:**

- Funding for research activities, communication, access to necessary equipment and resources;
- Funds for exchange visits between the Fellows and the International Scholars (all CARTI Fellows are eligible and expected to spend up to one academic semester at the home institution of the International Scholar during the term of the Fellowship);
- A Fellowship stipend;
- Funding for teaching and curriculum development activities available to Senior Fellows.

CARTI organizes a series of project review and trainings for the selected candidates prior to the formal start of the Fellowship and offers an academic program consisting of a summer school and other seminar, discussion and training activities during the period of the Fellowship.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Individuals seeking CARTI Fellowship support must be citizens and residents of the following countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Candidates for the **Junior Fellowships** must hold a diploma of higher education (of at least a Specialist or Masters level or the equivalent) and be formally registered* at a Doctoral studies program (a Ph.D. or equivalent program, such as *aspirantura*, leading towards a first Doctoral, such as a *Candidate of Science*, degree) in the humanities and social sciences in the region, or anticipate to obtain such formal registration no later than December 2011.

** Please note: The PhD enrolment requirement may be waived for applicants from Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. Interested individuals should inquire with the program administration prior to submitting the application.*

Candidates for the **Senior Fellowships** must possess a first Doctoral or equivalent (such as a Candidate of Science) degree in the humanities or social sciences, awarded within not more than five years before the time of the application to CARTI and hold full-time teaching positions at departments of social sciences or humanities at university level institutions in the program region.

Fellowships are awarded through an open competition based on the academic review of the Applications, consisting of an Application Form, Project Proposal, Curriculum Vitae, academic references and supporting documents. The finalists identified in the review process will be notified in January 2012 and invited to take part in the CARTI Research Design Workshop and project discussions in March 2012. Individual offers of Fellowships will be confirmed upon the successful completion of the Workshop.

We invite Interested individuals to complete the **on-line Application Form** and submit all supporting documents in electronic format via the **Open Society Foundations' On-Line Application System**: <https://oas.soros.org/oas>.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ON-LINE APPLICATIONS IS
7 NOVEMBER 2011, 5:00 PM CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME

Please consult the **CARTI Guide for Applicants** for details of the application and selection process. Further information about the program and the application guidelines are available at www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp. HESP program staff is available for further consultations.

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