

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. If I am a citizen of an Asian country and currently studying in a non-Asian country, would I be eligible to apply for the fellowship?

- A. You would not qualify for the fellowship, but you may submit an application for the Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies.

Q2. What information and documents do I need to prepare before submitting an application?

- A. Before you submit an application online, please prepare a paper proposal that includes a title, abstract of 300-400 words, and a short biography of about 150 words.

If you are applying for the Asian Graduate Student Fellowship, you will also need to prepare a research proposal of 400-600 words. The research proposal should include the following:

- a) Your reasons for applying for the fellowship
- b) Your motivations for enrolling in the English academic writing workshop
- c) Your expectations of the fellowship in terms of your research and writing
- d) How the fellowship will contribute to your research

Most importantly, one letter of recommendation from your thesis supervisor or a senior scholar in your field is required before your application (for either the fellowship or the graduate forum) can be successful. The letter should be printed on an official letterhead and include the signature of your referee.

Q3. What should be included in the abstract for my paper proposal?

- A. The abstract should be between 300-400 words, and should clarify the substantive issues which your paper will address and be firmly grounded in your own research project.

Please include the following information:

- a) Objectives of paper/ hypotheses (if any)
- b) Conceptual framework
- c) Methodological approach, including:
 - your sources and the methods employed in collecting and analyzing them (for example: if you carried out a survey, give sampling design, sample number, etc.; if you did in-depth interviewing, then how many did you do and what approach did you use; if archival, then which archives, documents, etc.)
 - if the COVID-19 pandemic has hindered your data collection (for example: you could not conduct ethnographic fieldwork or visit an archive), explain in which ways the pandemic has limited your research activities, how you have responded to the challenge, and which methodological innovations were required.
- d) Findings and discussion
- e) Conclusion (in relation to your objectives)
- f) 5 keywords for your research paper

Papers that are only based on literature reviews will not be accepted.

Q3. How may I know if my research topic would be a good fit for the fellowship and/or the graduate forum?

- A. We would be happy to consider your application if your research is on Southeast Asia, and the topic falls within the themes of one (or more than one) of our research clusters. For more information the research clusters at ARI, please visit our website at <https://ari.nus.edu.sg/> and click on “Clusters”.

Q4. What is the general outline of the English academic writing workshop?

- A. The English academic writing program will focus mainly on the following aspects:
- a) How to deploy the English language to express ideas clearly, and in a style appropriate to academic research writing
 - b) How to present a research question and answer clearly in your research paper
 - c) How to organize information to help readers process ideas efficiently

Q5. Which countries are not considered to be part of Southeast Asia?

- A. India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, together with central and East Asian countries, are not considered part of Southeast Asia.