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Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability  
Director: Prof. Dr. Ing. Angela Million

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TU Berlin | Department of Urban & Regional Planning (ISR)

## Call for Applications

# SMUS-APRI: Urban Africa Post-Doctoral Research Stay

**Application Deadline: 5. March 2025**

This SMUS call is funded by DAAD with funds from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ)

### Post-doctoral and research collaboration

The SMUS-APRI Urban Africa Post-Doctoral Research Stay Scholarships are part of the **SMUS (Post)Doctoral Programme**. This Call is a collaborative initiative between colleagues in the [Department of Urban and Regional Planning \(ISR\)](#) at Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin) and [APRI – Africa Policy Research Institute](#).

Researchers at this Berlin-based, independent and nonpartisan African think tank conduct research and provide policy insights to policymakers on key policy issues affecting specific African countries and the African continent in general.

Between 4 and 6, short-term research stay scholarships are being offered to colleagues based at African universities to share their research on urban wicked problems related to SDG#11, [targets](#). During their stay, the researchers will have the opportunity to engage in both policy-oriented activities at APRI and teaching-related endeavours at TU Berlin with the aim of:

- Promoting a deeper understanding of complex urban challenges on the African continent.
- Identifying common patterns and thus developing policymaking-oriented strategies to tackle these issues effectively.
- Applying and operationalising contextual knowledge by integrating diverse perspectives through an open and collaborative *transdisciplinary* approach.

Applicants to the SMUS-APRI Post-Doctoral Research Scholarships must be able to prove prior experience in generating policy-related outputs, such as consultancy work with policy-making institutions or influencing local and national policymakers through op-



1



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eds, commentaries, policy briefs, or similar publications or activism (i.e. local civil society initiative, NGO, etc.) or similar engagement(s).

To encourage knowledge transfer from the South to the North, **the scholarships will only be awarded to applicants who can come to Berlin and stay for the entirety of the assigned funding period.**

### **Outcomes/Deliverables**

- Scholarship holders will work **on a peer-reviewed transdisciplinary-based APRI [Commentary](#) or [Short Analyses](#) or [Policy Brief](#)** on African urbanisation that provides potential policy options to African and/or European policymakers.
- Scholarship holders are encouraged to prepare and deliver **a Seminar or Brown Bag lecture on the topic of their Research Stay OR teach a one-off class to the SMUS PhD Training Programme participants.** The class can be on a topic of their choosing, e.g. a research methodology, research ethics, etc. The teaching should take place at one of the [Berlin University Alliance \(BUA\)](#): Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin), Freie Universität Berlin (FU), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU), and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.
- The scholarship holder will be invited to **prepare a Research Report on wicked urban problems in Africa.**

### **Eligibility**

This two-track Call is open to post-doctoral research scholars from African universities at various career stages. The scholarships target both post-doctoral early-stage (Track A) and advanced-senior (Track B) researchers and lecturers.

**Track A** is focused on researchers in the initial phase of their post-doctoral academic careers. To qualify for this track, your doctoral dissertation should not be, upon submission of your application, any older than 2 years. Researchers who are near the completion of their doctoral dissertations may also apply.

**Track B** is focused on advanced senior researchers and lecturers who seek to engage in south-to-north research collaborations. In this case, the scholarship and stay in Berlin could facilitate the exploration of, and potentially lead to, possible future joint research projects and/or policy-shaping initiatives.

Allowances will be given for childcaring responsibilities; please refer to the Google application form for more information



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The selected scholarship holders are guaranteed a workspace at the ISR / TU Berlin or at APRI. Scholarship applicants must, however, find someone willing to be their Research Partner during the research stay. If it is of interest to you, we would be happy to make initial introductions to potential Research Partners working in any [department/chair at the ISR](#).

The research partner can, however, be based at any one of the institutions within the [Berlin University Alliance \(BUA\)](#): Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin), Freie Universität Berlin (FU), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU), an Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

### Contact Persons:

**Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability | SMUS**

**Department of Urban and Regional Planning – TU Berlin**

Scientific Coordinator | Thando Tilmann | [thando.tilmann@tu-berlin.de](mailto:thando.tilmann@tu-berlin.de)

**K LAB | Laboratory for Communication**

**Department of Urban and Regional Planning – TU Berlin**

Managing Director | Dr.-Ing. Andreas Brück | [andreas.brueck@tu-berlin.de](mailto:andreas.brueck@tu-berlin.de)

### Financing

The scholarship covers living expenses and should allow working **full-time on the expected outcomes and deliverables**. The scholarship includes:

- A round-trip flight ticket to Berlin.
- **Track A:** Early-stage researchers must come to Berlin for a minimum of three months. Researchers will receive a monthly scholarship of:
  - €2.000 for postdoctoral researchers to cover accommodation, health and liability insurance costs, local travel and living expenses.
  - DAAD regulations stipulate that if the research stay is longer than three months, the monthly stipend will be €1.300 per month for the **entire** duration



of the research stay. In addition to the €1.300 monthly scholarship, researchers staying in Berlin for longer than 3 months will receive a monthly lump sum payment of 145€ for health insurance costs.

- **Track B:** Advanced senior researchers must come to Berlin for a minimum of three months. Researchers will receive a monthly scholarship of:
  - €2.150 for Experienced scientists, advanced-senior researchers and lecturers to cover accommodation, health and liability insurance costs, local travel and living expenses.
  - DAAD regulations stipulate that if the research stay is longer than three months, the monthly stipend will be €1.300 per month for the **entire** duration of the research stay. In addition to the €1.300 monthly scholarship, researchers staying in Berlin for longer than 3 months will receive a monthly lump sum payment of 145€ for health insurance costs.
- All scholarship applicants can claim a sum of up to €150 for visa fees, necessary vaccinations/tests and/or international money transfer. Please note that DAAD regulations require proof of expenditure, so receipts/invoices, etc. must be submitted for these expenses to be reimbursed.

**Please note: Additional income earned during the scholarship period has to be reported to the TU Berlin administration. If the scholarship holder earns more than (the equivalent of) €556 per month, this amount will be deducted from the scholarship.**

### Timeline

Call circulated	From January 27 <sup>th</sup> 2025
Submission of applications (Deadline). Applications sent after this deadline will not be considered.	<b>March 5<sup>th</sup> 2025</b>
Meeting of the academic selection committee	March 10 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> 2025
Notification sent to scholarship holders	March 17 <sup>th</sup> 2025
Earliest start of scholarship - Scholarship duration is a <b>minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 4 months</b>	April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Latest end of the scholarship	November 30 <sup>th</sup> 2025



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## Application Procedure

Applications should be sent in English as **one single .pdf file** to: [raffaela.reinboth@tu-berlin.de](mailto:raffaela.reinboth@tu-berlin.de). Completed applications should include the following:

1. The completed Google Form. The link can be found here: <https://forms.gle/SorbbmYcinrRnFsz9>. You can update the information provided in Google Form at any time up until the deadline. It is not necessary to have a Google email address to this end.
2. Your CV with academic and professional achievements, particularly as they pertain to the connection between science and policy.
3. Copies of articles/publications that demonstrate proof of prior experience in generating policy-related outputs, such as newspaper op-eds, radio interviews, policy briefs, or similar publications or activism (i.e. local civil society initiative, NGO, etc.) or similar engagement(s).
4. A draft of the policy brief proposal indicating topic(s) related to the targets of SDG #11 (300 to 400 words, excl. references).
5. **For Track A:** Certified copies of your doctoral degree and/or letter from your supervisor confirming your defence date.  
**For Track B:** Certified copies of your doctoral degree.
6. **For Track A:** Certified transcripts of your doctoral degree.  
**For Track B:** Certified transcripts of your doctoral degree.
7. **For Track B only:** Proof of your advanced researcher or lecturer status.
8. A scan of the information page in your passport.
9. A signed letter of invitation from your Research Partner. Please do **not apply without this letter!** The letter of invitation should include the following details:
  - a. The name of the person who is willing to be your research partner during your research stay.
  - b. A brief description of the host's interest in the applicant's topic.
10. The completed and signed **APRI-SMUS Post-Doc Scholarship Application Checklist**.

## Non-discriminatory Selection Processes and Promoting Underprivileged Groups, Scholars from Different Disciplines and World Regions

Consideration is given to the thematic and professional spectrum of different disciplines within the SMUS partners network.



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SMUS follows the non-discriminatory selection processes of DAAD (see DAAD Selection of scholarship holders within the “In-Country/ In-Region Scholarship Programme” March 2020, p. 5):

*DAAD’s goal is to continuously increase the participation of less represented (social) groups in our programmes, as we are convinced that diversity and inclusion characterise universities that are particularly high performing. The scholarship programme therefore aims to increase the participation of less strongly represented target groups and the diversity of scholarship holders. For this very reason it is particularly important that the selection processes are carried out without discrimination. Particular care must be taken not to disadvantage applicants with disabilities, chronic illnesses, or other social aspects of disadvantage. The applicants have the possibility – if they wish – to provide information in the application form about disadvantages they have suffered during their studies or in their research due to their disability, chronic illness or other disadvantage (e.g. longer duration of studies due to disability or childcare, necessity to work, etc.). (...)*

In the context of gender equality, we would like to point out that DAAD gives preference to female applicants if they are equally qualified. To adhere to and promote the non-discriminatory DAAD selection of the scholarship holders’ procedure, SMUS will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion in awarding the scholarships. We will include candidates of different career stages from diverse world regions, social and economic backgrounds, and a range of social sciences, engineering, architecture and planning disciplines.