School of Communication Visiting Scholars/Visiting Fellows Program

The Visiting Scholars/Visiting Fellows Program is designed for visiting scholars and leaders in the fields of Communication – including Communication Studies, Journalism, Strategic Communication/Public Relations, and Film and Digital Media – who have a well-defined postgraduate study agenda.

The School of Communication will accept a limited number of scholars/fellows each academic year. Accepted scholars/fellows are responsible for securing their own funding for all travel, research, and living expenses for the duration of their stay. The School of Communication and American University provide no funding for visiting scholars/fellows.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of SOC faculty. All applications must be received by March 15 and scholars/fellows will be notified by April 1; scholars/fellows will be accepted only once per year. The usual start for visiting scholars/fellows will be the beginning of the next academic year (usually late August.) Scholars/fellows may apply for visiting status for up to one academic year; shorter visits also are possible.

Visiting scholars/fellows who want to take classes must pay all tuition and fees; classes may not be audited.

Candidates must provide the following to Andrea Dargin at dargin@american.edu

1. Proof of an advanced degree from an accredited or government recognized institution.
2. All necessary data, including financial documentation, for J-1 Visa application as directed by the Dean’s Office.
3. Demonstrated proficiency in the English language.
4. A 1,500 word statement defining research needs, why American University/School of Communication is the best place for study, and how the proposed research relates to career goals.
5. Agreement from an SOC faculty member(s) to serve as a mentor during the visit.
6. Three letters of recommendation from professional colleagues.
7. Evidence of an established academic or professional career.
8. Current resume or curriculum vitae.
9. Documentation of insurance coverage as required by immigration upon arrival at American University.

NB: Final program participation is contingent on successful appointment by the University, identification of the faculty mentor, and approval of visa application.

Participants’ responsibilities include:

1. Having a clearly defined research agenda.
2. Meeting with his/her assigned mentor on a regularly scheduled basis.
3. Completing a research project or research paper worthy of post-graduate level studies and presenting findings at an open forum.
4. Taking an active role in the intellectual and professional agenda of the school, including presenting guest lectures and attending seminars and conferences related to the research agenda.
5. Affiliation with a sponsoring agency.
6. Current affiliation with an institution such as a University or professional organization.

The Visiting Scholars/Visiting Fellows Program provides the following:
1. Appointment as a Visiting Scholar/Visiting Fellow, which includes access to American University facilities, such as the Library.
2. An opportunity to engage in research utilizing the many resources in Washington, D.C.
3. An opportunity to interact with faculty at American University and with experts at other Washington, D.C., area institutions.
4. Scholar welcome dinner.

SOC/AU does not provide the following:
1. Housing
2. Meals
3. Transportation
4. Office space or telephone
5. Computer equipment
6. Conference fees or fees related to individual research or projects, such as computer software
7. Health insurance
SOC Visiting Scholars/Visiting Fellows Application Form

Each year, SOC accepts a limited number of applicants into the Visiting Scholars/Visiting Fellows program, which allows international scholars to pursue meaningful academic research through a valuable affiliation with American University. Please fill out the form below as part of the application process and submit to Bryan Bourgault at bourgabt@american.edu. 

Please Note: This form does not replace the DS2019 Exchange Visitor Application form. The DS2019 can be found at: http://www.american.edu/ocl/isss/Exchange-Visitor-Application-Form.cfm

PART I – BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: Last: ___________________________  First: _____________________  Middle Initial: ____

GENDER (M/F): _______  DATE of Birth: ________________________

COUNTRY of Birth: ______________________  CITIZENSHIP: ____________________________

COUNTRY of Permanent Legal Residency: _____________________________

EMAIL: _____________________________  TELEPHONE in home country: ______________________

PART II – RESEARCH INTEREST

OCCUPATION: ___________________________  AFFILIATED Institution: ___________________________

DEGREES HELD: ___________________________  HOST AU Faculty Member: ___________________________

LENGTH of Stay:  Begin Date: _____________  End Date: _____________

DESCRIPTION of proposed academic research while at American University: ________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

PART III – FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Please briefly describe how your stay will be funded (Visiting Scholars/Visiting Fellows will also have to verify this information through legal documentation if selected for the program): ________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

PART IV – SIGNATURE

Your signature below verifies that the information you provided is accurate

APPLICANT Signature: _____________________________  DATE: _____________________________