



Call for applications  
**3 Postdoctoral Fellowships**  
African Centre for Career Enhancement & Skills Support (ACCESS)

The African Centre for Career Enhancement & Skills Support (ACCESS) invites applications for **three postdoctoral fellowships**. The fellowships will be available from **1 September 2026 for four months** (1 September – 31 December 2026). The ACCESS Postdoc scheme aims to give early research scholars (within 2 years of completing the PhD) from selected African countries (see below) an opportunity to (1) gain experience in the German university context, working along colleagues in Leipzig University, (2) have time to work on an article for publication, and (3) experience teaching as part of a course team.

Participants may approach employability research from a wide range of disciplines, including history, politics, economics, business studies, education, anthropology, human geography, and cognate disciplines. Our research interests include establishing the impact of global crises and shifts on African markets and labour markets, including how African and global markets and labour markets interact; new ways of digital work; “brain circulation”; and African graduates working abroad.

Successful candidates will have an opportunity to gain teaching experience in the German context with applicability in their home institutions by contributing to a Bachelor-level module on Local Economy in Africa in a Global Context (including themes on Local Economic Development and Economic Interconnectedness). They will receive collegiate support, office space, mentoring, and integration into the activities and networks of ACCESS, SEPT Competence Center and the Institute of African Studies during their stay. Participants are expected to work on an article or chapter that will result in a peer-reviewed publication. They will have opportunities to present their research and receive feedback from colleagues. They are also expected to contribute to the ACCESS research blog. On completing the programme, participants will submit a 1500-word report detailing achievements during their stay.

Successful candidates will be paid a stipend of 1300 EUR monthly, according to the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) stipulations (→ see: <https://www.daad.de/en/>).

### About ACCESS

ACCESS is a project managed by a consortium of partners from seven African countries and Leipzig University in Germany and financed by the DAAD since 2020. The interdisciplinary programme analyses the employability of university graduates within the African context. Now in its second phase, ACCESS is based on four pillars: (1) employability research, (2) capacity building, (3) university business linkages and (4) an entrepreneurship academy. The research pillar focuses on research into how graduates in Africa search for and find work and build up their careers. It also seeks to develop and test innovative concepts for employability promotion at Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in Africa. Within this pillar, ACCESS aims to bring postdoctoral researchers to Leipzig University to work on projects of relevance to ACCESS Research agenda.

→ For more information on ACCESS, please visit <https://access-centre.org/>





## General information

- Successful applicants must be resident in Leipzig for the full duration of the fellowship. **Remote participation is not possible.**
- Applicants must develop a publication project which they will be working on during their time in Leipzig.
- The **deadline for submission** is 23:59 German time, **July 1, 2026**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Candidates should be available to attend a **brief online interview** after 6pm (German time) **on July 7 or 8, 2026** (in the case they are shortlisted).

## Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be nationals of one of the participating countries (Benin Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Tunisia) and employed at a recognised institute of higher education.
- Applicants must have completed their PhD at the time of application.
- There is no age limit. However, the doctorate should generally not have been awarded more than two years prior to the time of application.
- The applicant must also not have been ordinarily resident in Germany for more than 15 months before the time of application. However, this stipulation does not apply to applicants who came to Germany for a doctorate or other academic work and have been staying in Germany for a longer period for this reason. Those granted refugee status are also exempt from this rule.
- Applicants must have an excellent PhD and sufficient English-language skills to participate fully in the scheme.

## Application documents

- A copy of the doctorate degree, or evidence of completion.
- Two recommendation letters. One of these from the PhD supervisor, and one of these from the head of department or unit.
- If the language of instruction at your university is not English, proof of sufficient English language skills (TOEFL 78% or B2 of the European Reference Framework).
- A statement of motivation (1 page).  
Please explain (1) why you are applying (2) how your stay will develop you professionally, and (3) the added value of your participation to your home university.
- An abstract of the article/chapter to be written during the fellowship, which includes a discussion of methodology and contribution to existing research (1 page).
- A CV in block-style, including a list of publications

Please note: as it is a requirement that Postdocs are employed at a recognized university, the letter from the head of department or unit should explicitly state that the applicant will be released to take up the scholarship if the application is successful.

Please submit the application documents and the reference letters in one PDF file to the ACCESS Coordinator (research) at [edeagu@wifa.uni-leipzig.de](mailto:edeagu@wifa.uni-leipzig.de) with the subject title “ACCESS Postdoctoral fellowships”. Successful applicants will be informed by July 10, 2026 and expected to be in Germany on September 1, 2026.

