Welcome

Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAARS)

Information Session







STAARS | Program Overview

- The STAARS fellowship program is a multi-institution collaboration managed by Cornell University
- Launched in 2016, STAARS has had 78 Fellows to date
- In 2024, the World Bank and the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) will help sponsor and mentor STAARS Fellows
- Fellows are paired with mentors at Cornell, the World Bank, or PEP
- Jointly author a paper on a topic of mutual interest
- 15-month fellowship period, April 2024 June 2025

For more details visit: https://barrett.dyson.cornell.edu/staars/







STAARS | Research Themes

- 1. Dynamics of agricultural inputs use, technological change, and productivity growth
- 2. Rural factor (e.g., credit, labor, land) and product market performance and links to urban markets
- 3. Agri-food systems and value chains, their performance and evolution
- 4. Food security, nutrition, health and education linkages
- 5. Poverty dynamics, risk management and resilience against shocks
- 6. Sustainable natural resources management
- 7. Gender and marginalized groups







STAARS | Application Requirements

- 1. All proposals must be submitted through the <u>online application</u>
- 2. Applicant biodata information. A worksheet is available on the first page of the application to help you collect responses before submitting
- 3. Research Proposal (2500-word limit): motivates the selected research issue(s) and objectives, outlines data sources and proposed analytical methodology
 - i. Bibliographic references (not included in the 2500-word limit)
- 4. Current CV
- 5. Documentation indicating approval to use data (if any data sources are not publicly available)
- 6. Letter of support from home policy research institution (or current employer), explicitly committing to provide applicant with adequate paid time to undertake the research
- 7. Photocopy of the passport biodata page and, if applicable, any current US visa







STAARS | Eligibility

- Individual Fellows only (no teams)
- You received at least one degree from an African institution
- You've completed your Ph.D. no earlier than 2018 (or be last year ABD)
- You have strong analytical knowledge and statistical software skills (tested at finalist stage)
- You are proficient in English (all application materials and, if selected, paper drafts must be submitted in English)



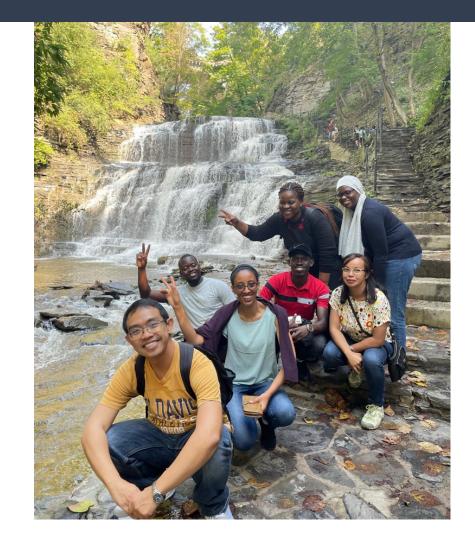




STAARS | Program Details

The program is comprised of **four main components**:

- Research Project
- Virtual Launch Activities
 - E.g. Orientation, Work Planning, Panel of Past Fellows
- Professional Development Trainings
 - E.g. Research Ethics, Time Management, Writing Structure, Navigating Peer Review
- Feedback Workshops









Deadline to submit a proposal: January 19, 2024, 11:59pm New York Time

- Proposals are peer reviewed by multiple experts from Cornell, World Bank, and PEP.
- Finalists based on the peer reviews are presented to a pool of mentors to identify prospective matches.
- Finalists are tested to ensure adequate competence in statistical analysis (using Stata or R) prior to final selection.
- Fellows are matched with mentors and peer mentors.
- Plan to notify accepted applicants by late March 2024.







STAARS and STAAARS+ | Timeline



- January 19, 2024: Application deadline
- Late March 2024: Fellows selected and notified
- April 2, 2024 (anticipated): Launch of new cohort and virtual meetings begin
- August 2024: Paper Draft 1 due
- September 2024: 3 week visit to U.S. travel restrictions permitting
- December 2024: Paper Draft 2 due
- June 2025: Deliver final research output







Thank you for your interest!



Please write your questions in the Q&A tool; we will answer live or write responses.

More questions? Email: <u>STAARS@cornell.edu</u>





