Call for Junior & Senior Fellowship Applications Academic Year 2020-2021

Fellows Program in Islamic Art & Material Culture
Junior & Senior Fellowships

The Institute of Islamic Studies (IIS) at the University of Toronto invites applications for an innovative Fellows Program in Islamic Art and Material Culture. The Fellows Program is a joint project of the IIS, Aga Khan Museum (AKM), and Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), and is run collaboratively through the Islamic Art and Material Culture Collaborative (IAMCC).

The definition of Islamic art and material culture here encompasses the art and material culture produced within the multi-cultural, multi-confessional and multi-ethnic regions from across West Africa to Southeast Asia and China as well as within diasporic communities from the seventh century to the present day by artists, architects, craftspeople and for patrons and consumers from a range of ethnic and religious backgrounds.

The Fellows Program is a unique opportunity for students to work under the supervision of museum curators, collections managers and other museum staff to gain experience in collections and exhibition development and interpretation at two of Toronto’s world class cultural institutions — The Aga Khan Museum and the Royal Ontario Museum. The Program additionally provides opportunities for more research-based experience for graduate students to work under the supervision of university faculty to
support advanced research at one of Canada’s premier institutions of learning — the University of Toronto. The internship program provides students a unique experience in the city of Toronto, interning onsite at museums and/or working alongside scholars to develop innovative insights in the history of Islamic art.

The Fellows Program is open to two cohorts of students:

**Junior Fellows Program:** Open to fourth year undergraduate students at the University of Toronto who will obtain course credit for participation as a Junior Fellow for a semester long course (.5 FCE) in the Fall 2020 or Winter 2021 academic term. Students who are accepted into the Junior Fellows Program will work with the Director of the IIS and the undergraduate coordinator of their academic departments to identify the appropriate course for the Fellows program. Currently, courses that qualify for the Junior Fellows Program are FAH481H1 (UTSG) and VST410H5 (UTM). Students from other departments should have their department’s undergraduate advisor contact the IIS to discuss integrating their respective courses into this program for the 2020-2021 academic year. The IIS will coordinate with each department to set the workload for each junior fellow.

**Senior Fellows Program:** Open to graduate students in MA and PhD programs at the University of Toronto in the fields of art history, Islamic studies, museum studies, curatorial studies, and Near and Middle Eastern studies. Senior Fellows will be awarded a $4500 fellowship and work closely with curators and researchers for approximately 200 hours, to be allocated in a manner subject to discussions between the director, the Senior Fellow, curators and researchers.

**Duties of Fellows:** Junior and Senior Fellows will be required to work under the supervision of curators, collection managers and/or faculty in accordance with the priorities set by their supervisors. All Fellows are required to attend the monthly Islamic Art and Material Culture Collaborative lectures and workshops and submit written reflections on the lecture to the supervising team. Moreover, all Fellows will be required to present their research project at one workshop, to be scheduled during the course of the academic year.

**Junior Fellows.** Junior Fellows will spend approximately 60-100 hours in a course-credit, unpaid internship, depending on the requirements of each department. Approximately 1 day per week will be spent at the internship site during regular business hours. Students should ensure that they have at least one full weekday available in their schedule in order to complete internship hours on site. In coordination with supervising curators and researchers, Junior Fellows will conduct research and other related work off site and in accordance with priorities and guidance set by their supervisors. Please consult the internship course requirements for FAH481H1 (UTSG) and VST410H5 (UTM) for further details on progress monitoring and reporting.

**Senior Fellows.** Senior Fellows will work under the supervision of curators and researchers for approximately 200 hours spread over the 2020-2021 academic year. The allocation of work and hours will be subject to discussions with supervisors. At least one day per week will be spent at the internship site during regular business hours, though this may be increased or decreased during the course of the fellowship through consultation with supervising curators and/or researchers. In coordination with supervising curators and researchers, Junior Fellows will conduct research and other related work off site and in accordance with priorities and guidance
set by their supervisors. Senior fellows may be required to present their work at the IAMCC workshop, to staff at one or both of the participating museums, or by other means.

**Priority Areas for 2020-2021.** While any eligible student is welcome to apply, the IAMCC internship program complements the IAMCC’s commitment to the following:

- Advanced research in the field of Islamic art history/archaeology (medieval, late medieval, early modern), across various languages relevant to the field.
- Collections care, research, interpretation, and exhibition/permanent gallery research, development and design of the AKM’s and ROM’s holdings of Islamic art and material culture.
- Exhibition and permanent gallery research, development and design using both private and public collections of Islamic art and material culture that reflects the Greater Toronto Area’s multicultural demography.

Candidates with interest or experience in any of the above areas are preferred.

**How to Apply:**

All applicants to the Junior and Senior Fellows Program are required to provide the following:

- Resume or CV (2-3 pages max)
- University undergraduate and/or graduate transcripts (official or unofficial transcripts accepted)
- Statement of Interest (750 words max). Please briefly identify:
  - Relevant academic and professional experience in Islamic art and architecture as well as any museum or gallery experience
  - Research language ability (e.g. Arabic, Farsi, Swahili, Turkish, Urdu, Malay etc.)
  - The Junior or Senior Fellows cohort
  - Term for internship (Fall 2020 or Winter 2021)—*for Junior Fellows only*
- A list of three references (2 academic, 1 employment) with relevant contact information

**Submission:**

Please email your application by **May 31, 2020** to islamicstudies@utoronto.ca.

All applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of museum staff from the ROM and AKM, and faculty from the UofT. Any questions can be directed to IIS director Anver M. Emon at director.islamicstudies@utoronto.ca

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*Public transit travel subsidies for transport within the GTA will be provided upon request to ensure access to internship sites at the Aga Khan Museum and/or the Royal Ontario Museum. This program does not provide costs for living expenses, tuition, or visa applications.

*NB: We are setting a late submission date due to the extraordinary circumstances of COVID19. Successful candidates for the Junior Fellows program will be notified before course enrollment for Fall 2020. The program for 2020-2021 is subject to any limits posed by emergency measures that then-remain in place to address the pandemic.