

## CAS FELLOWSHIPS 2025/2026

(1 October 2025 – 31 July 2026)

### Project Proposal Guide

In order to be considered, the application package should contain all the required documentation as outlined in the call for application and the application checklist. It should be submitted on time and follow the required format. In addition to fulfilling those formal requirements, however, the applicant must strongly demonstrate the **viability** of the proposed research, its **impact** and **relevance**. The following guide mentions some of the most important features of an application, with particular attention to the development of the research proposal description.

Of particular importance for a successful application will be outlining the project in both the short 200-word abstract (Section 11) and in the longer project description of 2,000-2,200 words (Section 27). While the short abstract should contain only the **title** and the most important information about the project, presented in a clear and concise way, the longer project description should familiarize the reader with the relevant scholarly apparatus that the applicant intends to use.

First of all, the detailed research description should present the applicant's most central **research question**, project **aims** and how the applicant intends to address it. The research question usually tackles a complex topic which may not have received sufficient scholarly attention or needs to be revisited in light of the most recent theoretical and methodological developments. Informing the reader of the research gaps or the inadequacy of current approaches to the topic is a prerequisite for demonstrating both the relevance and the originality of the proposed research. Thus, a short **literature overview** section is highly recommended to potential applicants who should aim to position their future work within the respective field.

After briefly surveying the existing works on the topic, the applicants should base their research on sound theoretical and methodological basis. Many of our research fellows employ an **interdisciplinary** and/or comparative approach to their topics, thus the ability to connect various theoretical and methodological strands is highly valued. In this section of their project description, applicants usually outline their main **theoretical framework** and address the question of **sources** that their preferred **research methods** entail.

Apart from their originality, research topics are also evaluated in terms of feasibility. A tentative **time schedule** with several en route research milestones would significantly increase the chances of completing the project's aims within the allotted time frame. In addition, the detailed project description should hint at the overall organization and structure of the future project.

Last but not least, it is crucial that the applicants once again highlight the **novelty** and the **contribution** of their proposed research. The project description should also contain a short list of the most relevant **bibliography** on the topic.