Graduate Assistantship in Africana Studies
Villanova University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Graduate Program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has established an assistantship in Africana Studies, tenurable for two years by a student admitted to the Masters program in one of the following departments or programs:


The Assistantship has been created to attract outstanding graduate students in the humanities and social sciences, and to recognize the strength of the Graduate Division’s faculty resources in Africana Studies across the humanities and social sciences. The Africana Studies program at Villanova University emphasizes the links between theory and practice, academic learning and its application. Consequently, we expect the holder of the assistantship to be a knowledgeable and active participant in the Africana Studies community. Graduate students whose research interests and professional experience are related to the African continent, the experience of Afro-descendants in the Americas, and the interdisciplinary field of Africana Studies will be given special consideration for this position. Candidates should also have demonstrable administrative skills, including knowledge of programs like Microsoft Word, the interest and ability to work on the program’s webpage, and all social media. Preference will be given to applicants with experience organizing and planning events.

The Africana Studies Graduate Assistant will pursue a Masters in a department or program while providing twenty (20) hours per week of programmatic, administrative and office assistance to the Africana Studies program. The Africana Studies Graduate Assistant will also support the Africana Studies Program Director’s research on the long-term developmental legacies of colonialism, and the political challenges facing postcolonial states in Africa and the Caribbean region. The Graduate Assistants’ tasks might include data entry and/or data collection, summarizing books and articles, proofreading and formatting academic article manuscripts, and writing literature reviews. The Assistant will receive remission of tuition for all courses taken in the Graduate Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences up to the number of credits required for the completion of the Masters degree and a stipend for the nine-month academic year. The stipend for AY $18,780.00 for the academic year 2022-23.

Interested applicants should contact the Director of Africana Studies, Dr. Olukunle P. Owolabi (email: olukunle.owolabi@villanova.edu). Please submit your CV/resumé, and a 500-750 word personal statement outlining your research interests and professional
experience, your long-term career goals, and your motivation for applying for this 
fellowship. These documents should be submitted in PDF format to the Africana Studies 
program director, Dr. Olukunle P. Owolabi (email: olukunle.owolabi@villanova.edu) by 
Friday July 22nd. The Graduate Studies office will provide access to your MA application 
materials to the Africana Studies program director.

Please note that our selection process will prioritize candidates with a strong academic 
record, and demonstrated research interests and/or professional experience related to the 
African continent and/or the lived experiences related of Afro-descendant populations in 
the United States, Europe, or anywhere in the Americas. Nevertheless, all qualified 
candidates are eligible to apply.