**BRITISH ACADEMY EARLY CAREER WRITING PROGRAMME**

**Crises in the Horn of Africa: Transforming research for policy makers into an international research profile**

**Information and Application Form**

We invite applications from early career researchers (ECRs) from the Horn of Africa involved in social science or humanities policy-oriented research projects on one or more of the following regional crises – climate change, conflict, and displacement – for a British Academy funded writing programme. Successful applicants will participate in a programme of activities over a two-year period run by scholars with experience of translating policy-oriented research for academic and broader policy and public audiences and journal editing. More specifically, workshop participants will be brought into a structured series of trainings and interactions with scholars and editors of leading area studies and disciplinary journals – *African Affairs*, *Journal of Eastern African Studies* (JEAS), and *Journal of Genocide Research* (JGR) – that publish world-class research on crises in the Horn as well as high-impact research for a policy audience (Rift Valley Institute, RVI). Participants will also be supported by one of six mentors with relevant geographic and disciplinary expertise and will have opportunities to engage with other leading scholars from the region. Activities and mentorship will be designed to support participants to translate policy-oriented research into academic, policy, and popular outputs and, where an appropriate funding body or team can be identified, a grant application. The aim: to support participants to publish academic and non-academic outputs, develop an international profile for research excellence, increase their competitiveness for future research funding, and contribute to overcoming global knowledge inequalities. The programme will run from July 2025 to March 2027.

Eligible participants will be ECRs from the Horn of Africa with access to rich primary data or at least important empirical insights related to climate change, conflict, and/or displacement garnered through previous or ongoing policy-oriented projects. In terms of eligibility requirements:

* You must be an ECR. We understand ECRs to include doctoral students, post-doctoral researchers who completed their PhD within the past seven years (with allowance for career breaks), and researchers with similar research experience to a PhD student or post-doc.
* You must be from the Horn of Africa. We understand the Horn of Africa to consist of the eight countries in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD): Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda.
* You must be – or have recently been involved in – academic or policy-oriented projects on climate change, conflict, and/or displacement in the Horn of Africa that have produced data and findings that are ripe for translation into a range of academic and non-academic outputs. You will need to have permission to use this data and findings and, if you are not the principal investigator for the project(s) from which insights will be drawn, you must submit a reference from the principal investigator.
* You must have the time to participate in the programme of activities and to draft at least one academic article and one non-academic output between July 2025 and March 2027. Activities will include an initial induction meeting; three writing workshops (one in person in Nairobi in July 2026); one-to-one meetings with mentors; and attendance at regular research seminars and an early career forum.
* You must be able to provide one reference by the submission deadline. If you are not the principal investigator on the project(s) from which data will be drawn, someone from that project must provide the reference and confirm consent for data use.
* You must be able to provide evidence of, or be able to secure, required research permissions including ethical clearance.

This programme will be run by a project team – Gabrielle Lynch (University of Warwick), Rachel Ibreck (British Institute in Eastern Africa, BIEA), Eric Kioko (BIEA), and Geoffrey Lugano (RVI) – with extensive experience in ensuring that research conducted primarily for policy audiences is also published in high quality peer-reviewed academic outputs and in more popular outlets, and of using such research as the basis for developing successful grant applications. The team incorporates decades of experience in peer review for academic publishers and funding bodies and the co-editors of three leading journals. *African Affairs* (Lynch) and *JEAS* (Kioko) are amongst the top African studies journals and publish analyses based on rich empirical insights. *JGR* (Ibreck) adopts a broad approach to genocide that includes mass atrocities and ecocide. The larger team also includes the editor of the RVI’s research and policy publications (Jason Mosley).

The programme will be enabled through an existing collaborative partnership between the BIEA and RVI. The BIEA is a British International Research Institute (BIRI), a registered charity in the UK, and a registered NGO in Kenya with a mandate to promote innovative research in the humanities and social sciences within the wider region of eastern Africa. As well as conducting research, the BIEA offers financial support, affiliation services, and logistical assistance to research projects, and runs several graduate and postgraduate educational opportunities through its research centre in Nairobi. The Institute publishes two high-impact peer-reviewed journals, *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa* and *JEAS*.

The RVI is a UK registered charity headquartered in Kenya where it is registered as a limited company. It also has a presence in South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Somaliland, and works in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. RVI’s programmes bring local knowledge to bear on political, economic, and social developments to shape aid interventions, expand space for public participation in policy formulation, support local research capacity, preserve communal histories, and promote social justice. Over twenty years, the RVI has become a leader in practical social research, policy analysis, training, and public information. A series of RVI flagship projects – Research Communities of Practice, South Sudan’s Women’s Research Network, Ethiopia’s Women’s Research Network, X-Border Local Research Network and Somali Dialogue Platform – focus on the professional development of ECRs in the Horn of Africa.

**If you would like to apply to participate in this programme, please complete the form below, insert a CV, and complete the declaration. Submit your application to grants@biea.ac.uk** **by 5pm BST on Mon 2 June 2025**. Your email should use the subject heading ‘IWG 25 [SURNAME]’.

Note that:

* It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that their reference is submitted by the closing date to grants@biea.ac.uk. BIEA reserves the right to consult additional referees. You should ask your referee to use the subject heading: ‘IWG 25 [SURNAME OF APPLICANT] REFERENCE’.
* Applicants are welcome to contact [g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk) for advice in advance of the proposal.
* We will endeavour to inform successful applicants by early July.If you have not heard from us by the end of July 2025, please consider your application unsuccessful this time.

**APPLICATION FORM**

1. **Name:**
2. **Present position and institution / organisation:**

1. **Horn of African country which you are from/live in:**
2. **Degree(s) with date(s) and classification(s) awarded and awarding institution:**
3. **Contact details (including physical address, telephone with country code, and email address):**
4. **Title of research project(s) that the applicant will seek to translate into a journal article and brief abstract (maximum 150 words):**
5. **Name and contact details of the principal investigator for the project(s) listed:**
6. **Applicant Statement (maximum 1,000 words):**

*Why should this application be supported? What is the background to the project and how can data and findings be translated into a journal article? What was your involvement in the project and what permissions are required to allow you to use this data and ensure that the highest ethical standards are met?*

1. **Description of project** (**maximum 1000 words):**

*What is your research question(s); research context; methodology; key literature/debate and likely contribution to knowledge?*

1. **Existing outputs:**

*What, if any, outputs have already been produced from the project(s) from which data and findings will be drawn? If so, how would the proposed article differ or build on existing outputs?*

1. **Ethics and Risks (maximum 250 words):**

*What ethical concerns will involvement in the writing programme raise and how will these be addressed? What data protection concerns will it raise and how will these be addressed?*

1. **Name, position, and institution of referee and their relationship to the applicant.** You will need to arrange for a reference to be sent directly to BIEA at [grants@biea.ac.uk](mailto:grants@biea.ac.uk) by the closing date. If you are not the principal investigator on the project(s) from which data will be drawn someone from that project must provide the reference and confirm consent and any conditions for data use.
2. **CV** **(maximum 2 pages, paste here):**

## DECLARATION

In making this application, I confirm

1. That the details given are correct.
2. That I fulfil all eligibility requirements: I am an ECR from the Horn of Africa; I am, or have recently been involved in, academic or policy-oriented projects on climate change, conflict, and/or displacement in the Horn of Africa; have the time to participate in the programme of activities; and am either the PI on listed project(s) or have arranged for the PI from project(s) to submit a reference.
3. That, if successful in this application, I will provide BIEA with copies of all publications resulting from the research.
4. That I will conform with any additional conditions that may be attached to the programme notification.
5. That by completing and submitting this form and so entering into this correspondence, I give consent for BIEA to hold and process my personal data in line with the BIEA Data Management Policy. See [www.biea.ac.uk/forms](http://www.biea.ac.uk/forms) for more details.

Signed: Date: