

Pakistan Fellowship Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply for both the Babar Ali Fellowship and the Aman Foundation Fellowship?

Yes, you may but you must submit two applications.

Can I e-mail you my fellowship application? I am afraid my documents will not be received by your office by the deadline if I send them by mail.

No. SAI requires all documents, including letters of recommendation, to be mailed to our Cambridge office. Complete applications must be received by the deadline in order to be considered.

Is the application deadline a postmark deadline or a receipt deadline?

It is a receipt deadline. All application materials should reach SAI's office by the deadline.

What is a rolling application deadline?

SAI will accept applications for the Babar Ali fellowship throughout the year. However, there is a cap on the number of fellowships that will be awarded, and it is advantageous to apply early in the year for the opportunity.

May I send you my materials via a portfolio services company, such as Interfolio?

Yes, you may do so provided that all of your materials are received by mail. SAI does not accept electronic application submissions for the fellowships.

Can my recommenders send their letters directly to SAI?

Yes, but it is preferable that they are included in your application. Recommendation letters can be mailed separately but should be received by SAI by the application deadline.

I am unclear about what an official transcript is. Could you clarify what I need to provide?

SAI requires applicants to send an official copy of their coursework and grades received from all post-secondary institutions attended (undergraduate and postgraduate). These official records should provide proof of your studies and are typically available through the university registrar.

My undergraduate and/or graduate institution does not issue grades on a 4.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) scale. Is this okay?

Yes. You should report your coursework and grades via official transcripts as issued. You need not worry if the institutions you attended do not use a 4.0 grading scale. However, you may choose to include an accompanying explanation of the grading system in your application if you feel that it is necessary (please note that this is not required).

My academic transcripts are not in English. What should I do?

SAI accepts transcripts that are in English or a South Asian language. Transcripts in any other language should be accompanied by a written translation into English or a South Asian language. These documents must be sent by mail, as SAI does not accept electronic application submissions.

Could you provide a list of possible courses that I could teach? Could you send me course syllabi so that I can choose which course I am interested in teaching?

No. As part of the fellowship application process, you are required to submit a brief statement of your teaching interests and a short summary of your tentative research plan at Harvard, which will be taken into consideration upon review of your application. These documents should be based on and should highlight your own research/teaching interests and expertise.

Should I contact Harvard faculty directly to discuss my research plan and/or teaching interests?

No. The grant review committee will review your application in consideration of the needs of Harvard's academic departments, and will match your research/teaching interests and plan accordingly at the time of review. As part of your research plan, you may identify any particular individuals you hope to seek out during your residence.

Are there any guidelines for submitting my writing sample?

The sample can be extracted from a larger work (such as your thesis or another major piece of research), or can be a shorter. SAI does not give preference to either option.