



READ

Research Expertise from
the Academic Diaspora

IMPORTANT! This document is made available to interested Resident Scholars in Albania to prepare their applications for the 2025-26 Cycle of the Research Expertise from the Academic Diaspora (READ) Program. **This is not the official application.** Please use this document as a kind of practice document or a preview of what you will find in the online application. **NOTE:** *Some questions, such as Field of Study, will be answered by choosing a value dropdown menu. That menu is not available here.*

Once the online application opens in **mid-December 2025**, you should move any information from this document into the online application. **READ must receive your online application for you to be considered for funding.**

Program Overview

The READ Program Overview

In 2021, the Albanian-American Development Foundation (AADF), in coordination with the Institute of International Education (IIE), has established the Albanian Diaspora Fellowship Program called Research Expertise from the Academic Diaspora (READ) Program. READ is a 7-year project that will connect Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Albania with the Albanian scientific diaspora and their respective academic institutions. The program is built on AADF's strategic priorities in education, especially in the higher education system. As diaspora engagement initiatives have been sporadic, AADF will play a leading role in establishing a well-structured path for channeling contributions of the scientific diaspora in ways beneficial to the Albanian HEIs. The READ Fellowship Program will benefit from the existing networks of AADF and other initiatives in higher education such as CleanScore, Center for School Leadership, and Junior Achievement of Albania.

This program offers a unique opportunity to address the untapped potential of the Albanian intellectual diaspora in ways that would enhance capacities and bring about structural changes in the Albanian higher education system. The READ Fellowship Program will address this gap by setting up a *catalytic model* for Fellows and Albanian HEI alike to benefit from creative collaborations. On the one hand, READ will allow diaspora scholars to make a meaningful contribution to Albania. On the other hand, the program will strengthen the capacities of Albanian HEIs by making full use of the valuable skills and experiences of the diaspora.



Albanian-American
Development Foundation



iie The Power
of International
Education

The READ Fellowship Program provides a formalized and structured fellowship program through which the Albanian academic diaspora can contribute to the development of HEIs in Albania and the overall development of scientific research in the country. READ will offer short-term fellowships (from one to six months) to highly qualified diaspora scholars (Albanian-born and second-generation Albanian) in OECD countries to pursue capacity-building collaborative research projects at Albanian HEIs. The Fellowship will contribute to Albania's research output and will connect Albanian academic institutions with peers abroad. It will also help Albanian researchers access research grants from different donors by training them in grant application and project design skills.

The program is designed on the successful model of diaspora fellowships implemented and administered in collaboration with Institute of International Education (IIE). READ supports Albanian collaboration among Albanian HEIs and diaspora scholars through four main activities: **collaborative research, joint supervision of PhDs, curricula and course development, and co-teaching.**

The three key program objectives are: **Sustainability**—sustainable collaborations between diaspora scholars and Albanian HEIs while fostering the opportunity for new collaborations and increasing access to research funding; **Institutional Capacity Building**—educational projects in collaborative research, curriculum offerings, graduate programming, and PhD mentoring; **Community Engagement**—knowledge production, international collaborative networks, and increased visibility and engagement with Albanian HEIs.

To enable institutions to seamlessly launch, implement, and scale collaborative activities with diaspora scholars, the framework of the diaspora fellowship programs includes the following key elements:

- An Advisory Council comprised of thought leaders from the Albanian diaspora and researchers from HEIs in Albania will select priority fields of academic scholarship aligned with national interests and demands in human capacity development.
- Universities identify their needs for new curriculum and research in priority academic fields and propose projects for international academic collaboration.
- Scholars from the diaspora express interest and are matched with projects based on expertise and mutual interest.
- Selected scholars carry out short-term fellowships at the universities to complete the projects and co-teach and mentor undergraduate and graduate students.

- Scholars and universities participate in alumni engagement activities and convenings to enhance the fellowship experience for future cohorts, contribute to the program's sustainability, and continually identify areas for collaboration.

In READ's 4th year, AADF has signed an agreement with the National Agency for Scientific Research, Technology and Innovation (AKKSHI), Ministry of Education of Albania to co-finance the READ Program. This cooperation will create new opportunities for academic exchanges with the Diaspora and increase the scientific capacity in the country.

Nature of Fellowships

The READ Program sponsors collaboration between Albanian scholars in the Diaspora and those in Albania (Resident Scholars). READ provides benefits to both sides of the collaborative partnership. The benefits awarded to the Albanian Resident Scholars include:

- Research grants of up to 500,000 ALL (2,500,000 ALL for projects pursuing applied research). Applicants will be asked to provide a detailed financial proposal for the project activities.
- Fellowships are awarded for a period of 1 to 6 months for one or more of the below activities:
 - Collaborative research (joint research paper and/or joint research project),
 - Joint supervision of PhDs,
 - Curricula and course development, and
 - Co-teaching.
- Projects should be a minimum of 1 month and a maximum of 12 months either in person or a combination of in-person or virtual collaboration.
 - Diaspora Scholars may visit Albania multiple times, although flight costs exceeding the READ budget are not eligible for reimbursement.
 - Diaspora Scholars must spend a minimum of two weeks in-person on their READ project.
 - A maximum of 1/3 of the total number of working days for a Diaspora Scholar can be virtual; the rest must be in-person.
 - Projects may require up to 2 Diaspora Scholars, but the maximum number of working days for each Diaspora Scholar is 30 days.

A grant may be revoked, terminated, or suspended. Grounds for revocation or termination include, but are not limited to:

1. Violation of any law of the Republic of Albania;
2. Failure to observe satisfactory academic or professional standards;
3. Physical or mental incapacitation;
4. Engaging in any unauthorized income-producing activity;
5. Failure to comply with the grant's terms and conditions.

A grant may be suspended if:

1. The grantee ceases to carry out the project or academic program during the grant period or
2. The grantee leaves Albania without authorization of the READ Program.

Application and Review Process

Learn More

- Albanian Resident Scholars at Albanian HEIs are responsible for submitting the details of the envisioned project. READ projects must include collaborative research, , curricula and course development and/or co-teaching.
- Project Requests are submitted during the annual application cycle by the relevant deadline set by the READ Program.
- In the project, Albanian Resident Scholars may identify a Diaspora Scholar with whom they wish to collaborate, or request that READ seek a Diaspora Scholar match for the project's requirements.
- After the deadline, initial screening and endorsement of applications are done by AADF and IIE. If READ coordinates the matching of a project and a Diaspora Scholar, the parties involved will be notified prior to the project entering the peer review process for approval.
- Once a project from an Albanian Resident Scholar is linked to a Diaspora Scholar (either through READ matching or through the Diaspora scholar being named in the Project Request), the linked project/Diaspora scholar pair will be sent to a peer review panel.

- The READ Advisory Council will select finalists from among the projects recommended in peer review. Finalists will interview with AADF for funding consideration.
- Notifications will be sent at each stage of the review process (initial screening; peer review; Advisory Council selection) to the Albanian Resident Scholar.

Developing A Project with an Albanian Diaspora Scholar

READ is a two-sided application process requiring a project submitted by a Albanian Resident Scholar at an Albanian HEI, and the credentials of a Diaspora Scholar submitted to the Roster. In many cases, READ anticipates that Albanian Scholars are in contact with colleagues from Diaspora and will collaborate on the project details submitted by the Albanian Resident Scholar. READ encourages this kind of cooperation, although it does not increase the likelihood of selection in comparison to projects without such prior cooperation.

Program Eligibility

Application Note: If you are a scholar in the Albanian Diaspora seeking to submit their credentials to be considered for a project, please submit your application at https://myapp.iie.org/read_diaspora_scholar.

If you are based in Albania but have not yet attained a PhD, please submit an application at [Resident PhD Student application](#) if you wish to be considered for education and training projects under the READ Program.

Program Eligibility

Albanian Resident Scholars are academics based at an eligible institution in Albania. The Albanian Resident Scholar(s) will collaborate with Diaspora Scholar on the project request. If selected, the Albanian Resident Scholar(s) will be the primary point of contact for the Diaspora Scholar during the fellowship period.

For the 2025-2026 competition, academics at the following institutions are eligible to submit a project to READ:

- Albanian University
- Aldent University
- Aleksander Moisiu University, Durres
- Aleksander Xhuvani university, Elbasan,

- Canadian Institute of Technology
- Epoka University
- Eqrem Cabej University, Gjirokaster
- European University of Tirana
- Fan S. Noli University, Korca
- Ismail Qemali University of Vlore
- Luigi Gurakuqi University, Shkoder
- “Marin Barleti” University
- Metropolitan University
- POLIS University
- Polytechnic University of Tirana
- Sports University Of Tirana
- Tirana Business University
- Universiteti Mesdhetar
- University College Bedër
- University of the Arts
- University of Agriculture of Tirana
- University Of Medicine
- University of New York Tirana
- University Of Tirana
- Western Balkans University

Additionally, Albanian Resident Scholars must possess **all** the following qualifications in order to be eligible for the READ Program:

- Albanian lecturer/ scholar / academic staff that is currently working at Higher Education Institution in Albania.
- PhD or equivalent degrees.
- More than 5 years of working experience at a university / HEIs or research center in Albania, within the last 10 years.

- Proficiency in English appropriate to the research project to be carried out in Albania.
- Knowledge of the field of expertise and willingness to share and commit with the Diaspora Scholar.

Note: A team with two or more scholars from HEIs has an advantage

Program Eligibility Choose One:

1. I meet all the above required criteria
2. I do not meet one or more of the above required criteria

IIE Privacy Statement & Safeguarding Guidelines

IIE values your privacy. We encourage you to read our Privacy Statement, located on the Privacy page on IIE's website.

The Privacy Statement outlines how IIE handles your data and includes the types of data we process, why we process it and with whom we share it. All application data is transmitted and stored in the United States.

Please note that IIE may be required to process data that is generally considered to be sensitive. IIE only processes this information when it is necessary to execute the management of your application or program.

IIE is committed to oppose and combat all forms of human trafficking, exploitation, sexual abuse, child neglect and child abuse in our programs. We encourage you to read IIE's Safeguarding Guidelines located on IIE's website.

[Please see the IIE Privacy Statement for more details.](#)

[Please click here to review IIE's Safeguarding Guidelines.](#)

I have read IIE's Privacy Statement. I consent and acknowledge that IIE will process my data, and I have read the IIE Safeguarding Guidelines.

Privacy Statement Choose One: Yes/No

Resident Scholar(s) and Institution Details

Application Note: All items must be in English.

Primary Albanian Resident Scholar

Please give your name exactly as it appears on your passport

Prefix (Dr.,Mr., Mrs., Ms.,Mx.)

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

Birthdate

Gender

Current Country of Residence

Primary Citizenship

Secondary Citizenship (if applicable)

Country of Birth

City of Birth

Contact Information

Primary Email Address

Secondary Email Address

Phone

If you are working as a team, click [here](#) to enter information about other members. You, the applicant, are the **Project Leader**. Please enter *other* members of your team below. You should **NOT** add PhD or other students here, nor should you add a Diaspora partner you may have identified.

Resident Scholar 1: Name	Title	Institution
Resident Scholar 2: Name	Title	Institution
Resident Scholar 3: Name	Title	Institution
Resident Scholar 4: Name	Title	Institution
Resident Scholar 5: Name	Title	Institution

Educational History

Please complete the following fields regarding your PhD or other terminal degree.

Institution Name

Field of Study

Faculty or Department

Year PhD was awarded

Current Institution Details

Affiliated Institution Name

Country: Albania

Street

City

Region

Postal Code

Department / Office

Faculty / School

Current Position

University Website

Position Start Date

Most significant professional accomplishments, honors and awards, and up to three significant publications (100 words)

Please enter the number of peer-reviewed articles you have published in an international journal.

Project Details

Application Note: All items must be in English.

Question 1: Are you applying for:

- **Applied Research Grant**
- **Research Grant**

Question 1: Which of the following eligible activities do you plan to pursue in collaboration with a Diaspora Scholar on a READ Fellowship? * Choose one or more.

READ encourages projects that include co-teaching combined with other activities.

- Co-teaching
- Collaborative Research (joint research paper and/or joint research project)
- Curricula and course development

Question 2: Field of expertise

Select one discipline from the list below that best describes your general area of expertise.

Question 3: Research Areas of Interest - Please describe generally your research areas of interest, not limited to the research area of your READ project. (100 words)

Question 4: Project Title

Question 5: Abstract (100 words)

Question 6: Project Description: With reference to the project activities selected above, please describe the proposed activities to be pursued in cooperation with the Diaspora Fellow. (500 words)

Question 7: Project Background: Please address why this project is needed, and how your project will address these needs. (250 words)

Question 8: Project Outcomes: Please describe the impact of your project, and detail the expected outcomes. If you plan to publish an article or attend a conference, please give the names of the journals or conferences you are considering. If you plan to develop a curriculum, please list the names of the expected courses you will develop. (500 words)

Question 9: Sustainability: How will the research collaboration proposed here between the Resident and Diaspora Fellows continue into the future? What steps will be taken during the project visit to ensure sustainability? What other funding sources may be available to support your future work? (250 words)

For Project with a Collaborative Research Component

Question 10A: Methodology: Explain the approach, methods and plan you will use (for example, interviews, library or archival research, or laboratory experiments). Indicate whether the proposed research is quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods. (500 words)

Question 10B: Applied Research: Applied research is focused on specific, real-world problems and seeks to find solutions in partnership with industry, government or other sectors, or which can quickly be put into practice in industry, government or other sectors.

Is the project you are proposing an example of applied research: Choose Yes/No

If yes, **Question 10C:** Please describe how the results of your research can be applied to have an immediate, real-world effect in collaboration with industry, government or other sectors. (250 words)

Question 10D: Please describe any involvement of students as part of the research work. If students at your institution will be collaborating in research work, please list their names. Further, please note whether you would be interested in working with students from the Albanian Diaspora. (250 words)

For Project with Curricula Development

Question 11A: Which courses do you plan to update and why?

Question 11B: How many students are attending this/those courses?

Diaspora Scholar Selection

Search For Diaspora Scholars:

Scholar Selection Option #1: I will search for a Diaspora Scholar.

You have opted to choose a Diaspora Scholar from our system.

If you know the name of the person you would like to work with, please search for them in one of the name fields below.

If you do **NOT** have a specific scholar already identified and wish to search the Roster for a potential match to your project, please search below by Field of Study. The list of scholar represents all scholars who have submitted an application to the READ Roster.

To search for all scholars, simply leave the filters blank and click **Search**.

Don't Find Your Scholar?

If your desired scholar has not yet submitted a READ Roster application, you may write in the scholar's name here:

Please do make sure you mention the Name, Email Address, and University of the Scholar.

Scholar Selection Option #2: READ will search for a Diaspora Scholar.

You have requested that READ searches for a Diaspora Scholar on your behalf.

READ will promote your project to available candidates, and share with you the CVs of any interested candidates for you to consider.

Note: In the online application, you will be able to view the list of Diaspora Scholars. If your preferred partner has not yet applied to join the Diaspora Scholars database, please advise them to do so.

Project Timeline and Workplan

Application Notes: All items must be in English.

Projects selected in this cycle should start no earlier than **1 June 2026** and be completed by **31 July 2027**.

In this section, please describe the steps that you will take to achieve the objectives of your proposed project. In each segment below, please select a range of dates.

Then, within that range, describe the activities that you, the members of your team in Albania and/or the Diaspora Scholar will undertake during that range. Please be specific as to the roles of each member. Not every member is expected to contribute equally, nor at the same time.

Finally, in order to calculate an appropriate budget for each member of the team, please provide an estimated number of working days for each member during each segment. You should also note whether the Diaspora partner's work will be done during an in-person visit to Albania, or virtually.

Notes:

1. Dates below should not overlap.
2. Diaspora Scholars should spend a minimum of 2 weeks in Albania over the course of the project.
3. While the Diaspora Scholar may make multiple visits to Albania, their total travel reimbursement is limited to \$500 USD (for scholars based inside Europe) and \$1,500 USD (for scholars based outside Europe).
4. A maximum of 1/3 of the Diaspora Scholar's total working days can be virtual.

Segment 1

Start Date

End Date

Description of Activities (200 words)

Proposed Working Days per Team member

Project Leader (You):

Resident Scholar 1

Resident Scholar 2, etc.

Diaspora Scholar (virtual)

Diaspora Scholar (in-person)

Segment 2

Start Date

End Date

Description of Activities (200 words)

Proposed Working Days per Team member

Project Leader (You):

Resident Scholar 1

Resident Scholar 2, etc.

Diaspora Scholar (virtual)

Diaspora Scholar (in-person)

NOTE: *You will have a maximum of 10 segments to use to illustrate how you and the members of your team will engage in the work proposed.*

Research and Infrastructure Budget

Under the READ Program, research project are eligible for financial support of up to 500,000 ALL, and applied research projects are eligible for up to 2,500,000 ALL.

Funding for research and infrastructure is paid by AKKSHI. There are two types of budgets. The Research Budget is payable to the individuals involved and includes supplies that will be used during the project.

The Infrastructure Budget provides covers equipment that will be used beyond the timeline of this project. Equipment purchased under this project will be owned by the higher education institution and used by the researcher(s) engaged in the project.

The procurement process for the purchase of infrastructure equipment will be carried out by the institution according to standard public procurement procedures.

All costs below should be in Albanian lek (ALL)!

Important: The budget request in the online application will not appear as a table. However, it is presented as tables here for you to start to calculate your costs. Please be mindful of the categories available and the overall limits.

Research Budget

Payments for Local Applicants: Gross salary per working day of the lecturer. The daily salary should refer to the employment contract that the lecturer (each of the lecturers involved in the project) has with the employer (HEI). Please list your Team Members in the same order used in the **Resident Scholar(s) and Institution** section.

	Detailed expense items	Unit	Number of units	Cost per unit	Total
1	Payments for local applicants				
1.1	Project Leader	working day			-
1.2	Team Member 1	working day			-
1.3	Team Member 2	working day			-
1.4	Team Member 3, etc.	working day			-
	Total payments to staff				-

Publications and Printed Materials: Publication costs are the costs of publication in international journals with a high impact factor, including "Reviews", the publication fee and any other costs applied by the publisher for the publication of the scientific article. AKKSHI recognizes only the invoice issued by the "Publisher" - the entity/journal that has published the article/articles with the author or group of authors involved in the project.

	Detailed expense items	Unit	Number of units	Cost per unit	Total
2	Publications and others				
2.1	Fee for publishing scientific articles (project output) in international scientific journals with a high impact factor.	piece			-
2.2	Documents produced within the framework of scientific conferences foreseen in the project (summary of abstracts, summary of articles, etc.)	piece			-
2.3	Posters/banners/brochures	piece			-
2.4	Subscription	month			-
2.5	Film or scientific documentary production (detailing of cost items)				-
	Total Publications				

Kits and Reagents: The list of kits and reagents must be provided in the project. The list must be detailed with units and prices. Costs for laboratory analyses that are performed for a fee in a lab outside the HEI or in a lab of a university abroad.

	Detailed expense items	Unit	Number of units	Cost per unit	Total
3	Kits and Reagents				-
3.1	Kits, reagents (detailed list of kits and reagents pcs/kg * Price)	piece			-

	Total Kits and Reagents		-
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Conferences, Summer Schools and Seminars: Activities of the nature of conferences, seminars, trainings, workshops foreseen as project activities. Do **not** include the costs of your Diaspora Scholar partner, as the Diaspora participants are paid by AADF.

	Detailed expense items	Unit	Number of units	Cost per unit	Total
4	Conference/summer school/seminar				
4.1	Hall rental (# of days * daily rent)	day			-
4.2	Materials for participants (notepads, pens, etc.)	person			-
4.3	Coffee break	person/day			-
4.4	Travel expenses for guests/lecturers	trip			-
4.5	Accommodation expenses	days of stay			-
4.6	Conference participant fees (with presentation)				
	Total of Conferences/Seminars				

Infrastructure Budget

Devices and hardware

	Detailed expense items	Unit	Number of units	Cost per unit	Total	Technical Specifications
1	Devices *					
1.1	Desktop	unit			-	-
1.2	Laptop	unit			-	-
1.3	Microscope	unit			-	-

	Total Devices		-	-
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Computer Programs/Software

	Detailed expense items	Unit	Number of units	Cost per unit	Total	Technical Specifications
2	Software					
					-	-
	Total Software				-	-

Books and eBooks

	Detailed expense items	Unit	Number of units	Cost per unit	Total	Titles
3	Books and eBooks					
1.1	Books (list titles)	unit			-	-
1.2	eBooks	unit			-	-
	Total Books				-	-

Totals

Reminder: The maximum budget is 500,000 ALL for most projects, and 2,500,000 ALL for applied research. Please refer to the Project Activities page and ensure that your budget request corresponds to your answer there.

	Total Research		-
	Total Infrastructure		-
	Total		-

CV Upload

Any uploaded documents must be typed or computer-generated; please use 12-point or larger type. Handwritten resumes will not be accepted.

When composing a curriculum vitae, it is important to include:

- Education (universities attended, degrees earned and dates received)
- Positions held
- Courses taught and other services provided to students and the home institution
- Publications (provide full citations and list them starting with the most recent)
- Other professional activities, such as workshops, seminars and consultations
- Membership and activities in professional associations
- Professional honors, awards and fellowships
- Community service

The application asks for similar information but provides limited space for answers. In the curriculum vitae, you should expand upon these topics to fully illustrate your accomplishments.

Important: Curriculum Vitae/Resume cannot exceed 6 pages.

Recommendations

You may register one recommender from your Chair of Department, Head of Institute, Dean, or a similar professional. Letters should be on university letterhead and signed.

- Prefix
- First Name
- Last Name
- Organization
- Position/Title
- Relationship
- Telephone
- Email

Note: Use your recommender's institutional or corporate email address. Submissions from anonymous email addresses (Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo) may be subject to additional review.

- Personal Message to the Recommender

Certification

I certify that the information provided here is true and complete.

In place of your signature, please type your full legal name:

REMINDER: This **is not an official application**. Please use this document as a guideline to prepare your materials for the online application to open in mid-December.

If you have questions, please contact READ@iie.org.