

TRAVEL
POLICY
RESEARCH
RAMSA Fellowship 2026
ARCHITECTURE
DESIGN
HISTORY
ENVIRONMENT

RAMSA Fellowship 2026

The RAMSA Fellowship is a \$15,000 prize awarded annually by Robert A.M. Stern Architects for travel and research. The fellowship promotes investigations into how tradition can inform invention—a theme central to our firm's work. It is given to individuals who demonstrate insight into the profession and its future, as well as the ability to conduct in-depth research.

Fellows travel during the summer and present their research to RAMSA staff the following spring. The fellowship also offers an optional residency program, providing an additional stipend for participants to spend two weeks in New York City—before or after their fellowship travel—working from RAMSA's office to refine their research with the support of our staff and resources.

Eligibility

The RAMSA Fellowship is open to graduate students in the penultimate year of a degree program in architecture or a related discipline at a NAAB-accredited school. This includes students in interior design, historic preservation, landscape architecture, urban design, and other programs. PhD students are not eligible. There is no limit to the number of students who may apply from each school.

Jury

A jury of three RAMSA partners selects a winner and a finalist based on the clarity, feasibility, and originality of the proposals. All applications remain anonymous to the jury throughout the selection process.

Important Dates

Submission Deadline

03/25/2026

Award Announcement

05/06/2026

Resources

The work of the first five recipients is featured in *Tradition and Invention: RAMSA Travel Fellowship 2013–17* (New York: Robert A.M. Stern Architects, 2018). Through essays, maps, photographs, and drawings, the fellows present their trips to Austria, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Scotland, Slovenia, and the United States. Recent recipients have traveled to China, Egypt, Italy, Malaysia, and Morocco, where they have studied a wide range of topics from the construction of mudbrick houses in Aswan to the rehabilitation of tuna fisheries in Sicily. All proposals submitted by past recipients can be viewed at www.ramsa.com/fellowship.

www.ramsa.com/fellowship

for application forms

fellowship@ramsa.com

for questions

RAMSA Fellowship 2026

Submission Information

Applicants are required to electronically submit a complete application no later than 6:00 p.m. (EST) on March 25, 2026. Complete applications include the Registration Form, Copyright Release Form, Verification Form, a research proposal, and a design portfolio.

Application Forms: Complete the Registration Form, Copyright Release Form, and Verification Form attached to this packet. The Verification Form must be signed by a department chair or school dean.

Research Proposal: Proposals must be submitted on a single-sided 11" × 17" sheet in landscape orientation; do not include your name or the name of your school. The proposal should feature an abstract of 350 to 500 words that covers the following points: the specific intent of the research, the motive or background of the project's origins, and the site(s) of research. Strong proposals will demonstrate prior knowledge of the research topic. Additionally, the proposal should include a title, itinerary, and budget. Applicants are encouraged to include images, maps, or other supporting graphics. Proposed travel should be a minimum of four weeks.

Design Portfolio: The design portfolio should stand in support of the proposal and supplement the applicant's profile. Strong design portfolios demonstrate an interest in the research proposal topic. The design portfolio should not exceed 10 single-sided pages and cannot include your name or the name of your school. Standard tabloid paper (11" × 17") is the maximum page size allowed. Do not include hyperlinks.

PDFs should be uploaded to: **RAMSA Fellowship 2026**. Digital files should be named "Fellowship_2026_School_Last Name." Only fellowship administrators will have access to identifying information including filenames.

Robert A.M. Stern Architects, for any reason and at its sole discretion, reserves the right not to award the fellowship in any given year.

Terms of Fellowship

- Fellows are expected to complete their research and travel during the summer following the announcement of the award; if safe travel to the proposed location is not feasible in 2026, RAMSA will work with the fellow to determine an alternate timeline and/or proposal.
- Upon notice of the award, the fellow will receive \$12,500 and must submit a final travel itinerary. The finalist will receive \$1,500.
- Fellows are required to present their final research to RAMSA's office in New York City and submit a written report before a final check of \$2,500 is disbursed. RAMSA will cover the cost of travel and accommodation for the presentation.
- Fellows are encouraged to work with their school administration to present their research at their home institution.
- The fellow agrees to the use and publication by RAMSA of any part of the travel update(s), presentation, and final report in accordance with the terms of the Copyright Release Form; the fellow will be credited as the author of the work.
- A book based on the final reports of the 2023–27 fellows will be published in the fall of 2028. Fellows, jury members, and other RAMSA contributors will be appropriately credited.

Recent Recipients

- 2025 Fellow Zamen Lin, Harvard University, *Circularity in Mainland Southeast Asia's Stilt Vernacular* (Malaysia, Thailand)
- 2024 Fellow Joanna Cheung, Columbia University, *Tulou: An Urban Typology in Rural* (China)
- 2023 Fellow Neha Garg, Cornell University, *Egypt's Earth Architecture* (Egypt)
- 2022 Fellow Giuliana Vaccarino Gearty, Tulane University, *Mapping Memory: Linking the Landscape of Sicily's Tuna Fisheries* (Italy)
- 2021 Fellow Daniel Hall, Princeton University, *Sourcing Material Transformations: Restoring Riad Domestic Spaces* (Morocco)
- 2020 Fellow Yaxuan Liu, Harvard University, *Qilou: Where Freedom Takes Shape* (Taiwan)

RAMSA Fellowship 2026

Registration Form

This form should be completed by the applicant. Please save this file as an editable PDF.

First name: _____ Last name: _____ Middle initial (optional): _____

Name as it should appear in print and press materials: _____

Phonetic spelling of name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Country: _____

Current institution: _____ Degree(s): _____ Expected graduation: _____

Previous institution: _____ Degree(s): _____ Graduation: _____

Proposal title: _____

For RAMSA Office Use

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Form 1 of 3

RAMSA Fellowship 2026

Copyright Release Form

This form should be completed by the applicant.

I hereby affirm that I am the sole author and copyright holder of all materials submitted for the Robert A.M. Stern Architects, LLP (RAMSA) Fellowship, including text, drawings, diagrams, photographs, videos, models, and presentation slides (the Submission). I also affirm that I will be the sole author and copyright holder of all Travel Reports and final report materials, including text, drawings, diagrams, photographs, videos, models, and presentation slides (Final Report). If any report contains materials by others, I will obtain all necessary permissions for their use.

I hereby grant my permission for the publication of the Submission, Travel Reports, and/or Final Report for the RAMSA Fellowship program to Robert A.M. Stern Architects, LLP, for potential use in electronic or hard copy media such as press releases, marketing publications, its website, presentations, exhibitions, history books, and similar publications, as well as for public access for student and educational purposes in all electronic or hard copy media. I understand that RAMSA will credit me as the author of the published work. If there is any separate publication of any portion of my Submission, Travel Reports, Final Report, or other materials that I develop during or based upon the Travel Fellowship, I will ensure that the RAMSA Fellowship receives appropriate credit for its support.

If the Submission, Travel Reports, and/or Final Report is selected for publication, I hereby grant a nonexclusive, perpetual, royalty-free license to RAMSA and any designated assignee of any and all copyright and trademark rights in the Submission, Travel Reports, and Final Report, solely for the uses described above. It is understood that this license is granted without reservation and remuneration, the publication being the sole consideration for the granting of permission.

Student's name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For RAMSA Office Use

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Form 2 of 3

RAMSA Fellowship 2026

Verification Form

This form should be signed by the dean or chair of the applicant's current institution.

Student's name: _____

Degree(s): _____ Expected graduation: _____

Verifier's name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

I, the dean/chair of the applicant's current institution, affirm that the above student is expected to graduate from our university/college on the date stated.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For RAMSA Office Use

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Form 3 of 3

RAMSA Fellowship 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Who is eligible to apply?

A To be eligible to apply, you must be in the penultimate year of a graduate-level program in architecture or a related discipline at a NAAB-accredited school. PhD students are not eligible. You do not need to be a US citizen. Please contact us if you are unsure of your eligibility.

Q Is there a limit to the number of students who can apply from each school?

A No. All eligible students at a NAAB-accredited school may apply. A school dean or department chair must verify your enrollment by signing the Verification Form.

Q Are team applications accepted?

A No. At this time, the RAMSA Fellowship is only awarded to individual recipients.

Q Do I need to travel outside the United States?

A No. Depending on your research interests, you may travel within the United States. All regions and cultures of the world are potential topics for study.

Q What if travel is restricted or postponed due to safety concerns, such as COVID-19?

A If safe travel to the proposed location is not feasible in 2026, RAMSA will work with the fellow to determine an alternate timeline and/or proposal.

Q What is the residency program?

A The program provides fellows with a stipend to fund a two-week-long residency at RAMSA's office in New York City before or after their travel. During the residency, fellows develop their research project with the support of RAMSA staff and resources including our extensive architecture library. The residency is optional and in addition to the \$15,000 travel and research prize.

Q Why can't I have my name or the name of my school on the design portfolio or research proposal?

A Applications are reviewed anonymously by the fellowship jury. Therefore, any identifying information should be omitted. If your portfolio includes team projects, denote them as such without using names.

Q How are the proposals judged?

A A jury of three RAMSA partners selects a winner and a finalist based on the clarity, feasibility, and originality of the proposals. Special attention will be given to how well the proposal aligns with the theme of the award: tradition through invention. Assume that the jurors have no prior knowledge of your research topic.

Q Can my abstract be over 500 words?

A No. A short, clear, and concise abstract will be most effective for conveying your ideas. Be sure to proofread thoroughly!

Q Should I include images?

A Absolutely! We strongly encourage applicants to include helpful images, maps, or other supporting graphics. Keep in mind that your audience is primarily architects.

Q What kind of work can I include in my design portfolio?

A The only work that cannot be included in your portfolio is work completed for an employer.

Q Can I view proposals and final reports from past recipients?

A All proposals submitted by past recipients can be viewed at www.ramsa.com/fellowship. The work of the first five recipients is featured in *Tradition and Invention: RAMSA Travel Fellowship 2013–17* (New York: Robert A.M. Stern Architects, 2018). Please join us for an information session in February 2026, with the date and time to be announced.