



African Leadership Academy
Developing the next generation of African leaders

Campus Address
1050 Printech Ave, Honeydew 2170 South Africa

Postal Address
Postnet Suite 413, Private Bag X1
Northcliff 2115 South Africa

Phone: +27 11 699 3000 Fax: +27 11 252 6190
Email: accounts@africanleadershipacademy.org

UMHOLI WE AFRICA FELLOWSHIP – COHORT FIVE APPLICATION FORM

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the Umholi we Africa (UwA) Fellowship.

The UwA Fellowship is a leadership and professional development program for emerging African leaders with a strong interest in public service, governance, and political leadership. Selected Fellows undertake high-impact professional placements within public institutions and governance organisations across Africa.

The Fellowship seeks individuals who demonstrate leadership potential, professional competence, integrity, adaptability, and a strong commitment to contributing to Africa's development. This application will help us understand your background, motivation, leadership experience, and readiness for the Fellowship.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the following instructions carefully before completing your application:

- Complete all sections of the application form electronically.
- Answer all questions honestly, clearly, and concisely, and respect the word limits provided.
- Save your work regularly while completing the fillable PDF to avoid losing your progress.
- Once completed, save the final version of your application before submission.
- Submit the completed application form together with your most recent CV and copies of your academic qualifications through the designated application platform.
- Please ensure that all supporting documents are clear, current, and in PDF format.
- Incomplete applications may not be considered.

KEY DATES

- Application Deadline: October 31, 2026
- Round One Interviews: January 2027
- Round Two Interviews: February 2027
- Pre-Fellowship Training: June 2027
- Fellowship Placement Begins: July 2027

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions or additional information about the Fellowship, please contact:

sleudjie@africanleadershipacademy.org



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SECTION 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Full Name
2. Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say ☐ Other
3. Date of Birth 4. Nationality
5. Country of Residence 6. Email
7. Phone Nber (with code) 8. LinkedIn
9. Professional Website or Other Relevant Professional Websites (Optional)
10. Languages: English ☐ French ☐ Arabic ☐ Portuguese ☐
11. Designation
☐ ALA Alumni
☐ ALU Alumni
☐ Mastercard Foundation Scholar

SECTION 2: EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

12. Highest level of education completed
☐ Bachelor's degree ☐ Master's degree
☐ PhD ☐ Other (please specify)
13. Field of study
14. Current occupation / job title
15. Organization / Employer
16. Years of full-time professional experience
☐ Less than 2 years ☐ 2–3 years ☐ 4–5 years ☐ More than 5 years



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17. Briefly describe your professional journey and the responsibilities that have best prepared you for a leadership role in public service, governance, or development. (*You may highlight experience related to leadership, policy, programme implementation, stakeholder engagement, institutional change, or other relevant areas*) (**Maximum — 200 words**)

18. Describe one significant professional, community, or leadership achievement that demonstrates your ability to create meaningful impact. (*Please briefly describe: the challenge or opportunity, your specific role, the actions you took, the outcome or impact achieved.*) (**Maximum — 200 words**)



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SECTION 3: MOTIVATION AND PURPOSE

19. Why is the Umholi we Africa Fellowship the right next step in your leadership and professional journey?
(Please tell us what motivates you to apply and what you hope to contribute to and gain from the Fellowship) (**Maximum — 200 words**)

20. What is one governance or development challenge in your country that you are most committed to helping address? (Why is this issue important to you, and what role do you hope to play in addressing it?) (**Maximum — 200 words**)



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21. Where do you see yourself contributing to public service, governance, or political leadership over the next 5–10 years? (*How do you hope the Umholi we Africa Fellowship will help prepare you for this journey?*) (**Maximum — 200 words**)

SECTION 4: LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

22. Tell us about a time when you influenced others to achieve a positive outcome, even though you did not have formal authority over them. (*What was the situation, how did you approach it, and what was the outcome?*) (**Maximum — 200 words**)



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23. Describe a time when you faced a complex challenge with limited authority, resources, or information. (How did you approach the situation, what actions did you take, and what did you learn from the experience?) (**Maximum — 200 words**)

24. What does ethical and inclusive leadership mean to you? (Please describe one example of how you have demonstrated these values in your professional work, leadership, or community) (**Maximum — 150 words**)



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25. The Fellowship may require you to adapt to a new institution, team, country, or working environment. *(Describe an experience where you successfully adapted to a significant change or unfamiliar environment. What helped you succeed?) (Maximum 150 words)*

SECTION 5: PUBLIC SERVICE AND PLACEMENT INTERESTS

26. Are you currently based in your home country?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If no, please indicate the country where you are currently based:

27. Are you open to relocation for the duration of the Fellowship (up to 18 months)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

28. Which area(s) of public service or governance most align with your interests? (Please select up to two)

☐ Education and Youth Development

☐ Health and Social Welfare

☐ Economic Policy and Trade



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☐ Gender and Women's Empowerment

☐ Environment and Climate Action

☐ Technology and Innovation

☐ Governance and Public Administration

☐ Others (please specify)

29. Which institutional environments would you be most interested in for your Fellowship placement? (Please select up to two.)

☐ National Government / Executive

☐ Parliament / Legislative Institution

☐ Regional / Continental Institution / Intergovernmental Organisation

☐ Open to any suitable placement

30. What skills or areas of expertise would you bring to a Fellowship placement? (Please select up to three)

☐ Policy Analysis

☐ Research

☐ Project or Programme Management

☐ Strategic Planning

☐ Stakeholder Engagement

☐ Communications

☐ Data and Analytics

☐ Monitoring and Evaluation

☐ Financial Management

☐ Technology or Digital Transformation

☐ Other (please specify):



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29. Have you previously worked in or collaborated with any government institution or public sector organization?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ If yes, please briefly describe your experience (100 words max).

SECTION 6: COMMITMENT AND READINESS

30. The Umholi we Africa Fellowship is a full-time commitment of approximately 12–18 months, depending on the placement. (Are you able to commit to the full duration of the Fellowship if selected?)

☐ Yes

☐ No

31. If selected, are you available to participate in the Pre-Fellowship Training in June 2027 and begin your Fellowship placement in July 2027?

☐ Yes

☐ No

32. Do you currently have any personal, professional, academic, or other commitments that may affect your ability to fully participate in the Fellowship?

☐ Yes

☐ No



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33. Do you have any disability or accessibility requirements or reasonable accommodation needs that you would like us to consider during the application or selection process?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Final Declaration

I certify that the information provided in this application is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that providing false or misleading information may result in my application being disqualified or, if selected, my participation in the Fellowship being withdrawn.

I confirm that I have read and understood the requirements and commitments associated with the Umholi we Africa Fellowship.

Signature: