**Call for Applications**

**Afghanistan Research Initiative (ARI) - 2026 Non-Resident Research Fellowships**

The Afghanistan Research Initiative (ARI) is pleased to announce the opening of applications for its 2026 Non-Resident Research Fellowships. ARI will award **four fellowships** to Afghan scholars pursuing innovative and impactful research across key disciplines. These fellowships are also tasked with helping convene and moderate discipline-based roundtables.

Each fellowship spans **18 months** and provides financial support of up to **$18,000 USD** to enable scholars to undertake original research projects. Eligible research topics must fall within one of the following thematic areas:

* Economics on topics such as development, labour, trade, and financial systems
* Natural Resources and the Environment with an emphasis on sustainability, mitigating the effects of climate change and natural hazards, and resource management
* Society issues and trends encompassing social dynamics and demographic change, gender studies, migration, and public policy
* Culture and history exploring heritage, identity, historical narratives, and cultural transformation.

In addition to conducting independent research, fellows are expected to convene and moderate some three discipline-specific roundtables. These roundtables aim to bring together researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas, share diverse perspectives, and foster collaborative inquiry. Fellows are required to produce non-technical knowledge briefs that summarise the key insights of each roundtable, intended for broader dissemination.

ARI encourages applications from scholars who demonstrate a strong commitment to advancing knowledge, engaging with pressing national and regional issues, and contributing to inclusive academic discourse. The initial 18-month award is renewable pending review.

Applications should provide a CV and a statement (up to 1,000 words) outlining the research proposal and ideas on advancing knowledge networks submitted to ari@ucentralasia.org (subject header: Fellowship).

Application deadline: 15 November 2025