

C A L L F O R A P P L I C A T I O N S

Research Fellow

Summer 2026

THE OPPORTUNITY

Africa's financial systems are being reshaped by digital infrastructure, new market entrants, and increasingly complex institutional interactions between regulators, incumbents, platforms, and consumers. As these systems become more interconnected, questions of coordination, reliability, and user confidence are becoming more central to how they function in practice, and to whether they earn and sustain public trust.

The Bridgforte Centre for Global Impact, through its research and convening activities, engages senior decision-makers across policy and industry to examine these developments and to strengthen the policy foundations of financial sector development in Africa. Its work focuses on the architecture of trust in financial systems, the governance of platform-led finance, and the conditions under which financial inclusion translates into durable economic participation.

The Centre *invites applications for a Summer Research Fellow to contribute to this programme of work.* The Fellow will take a clearly scoped area of inquiry within financial sector development, governance, and inclusion in Africa, and develop it into a rigorous, evidence-based insight. The work will involve independent research, structured writing, and direct engagement with ongoing intellectual activity within Bridgforte.

This unique opportunity is intended for an individual with relevant experience who is able to engage seriously with real-world financial system contexts and contribute to structured, policy-relevant work.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Conduct focused research within a defined area of financial sector development, inclusion, and governance.
- Produce one or more insight briefs that are clear, structured, and analytically sound.
- Undertake comparative analysis across jurisdictions, institutions, or system designs where relevant.
- Prepare structured briefing inputs ahead of selected Bridgforte convenings, including the Trust Lab.
- Synthesise discussions into concise, structured insights.
- Work closely with the Founder to refine arguments, strengthen analysis, and improve clarity of expression.

FELLOWSHIP STRUCTURE

DURATION 15 June – 30 August 2026. (*For the right candidate, there may be opportunities for continued engagement beyond the fellowship.*)

FORMAT Remote, with participation in selected convenings.

TIME COMMITMENT ~ twenty hours per week.

COMPENSATION Monthly stipend of USD \$1,500.

ELIGIBILITY

This fellowship is intended for advanced master's students, doctoral candidates, and early career researchers whose academic or applied work engages substantively with financial systems, financial inclusion, or related policy domains.

Applicants should have a foundation in one or more of the following areas:

- Financial policy or regulation.
- Financial services, including banking, payments, fintech, or related sectors.
- Financial inclusion or development finance.
- Public policy, law, or institutions relevant to financial systems.

In addition, applicants should be able to:

- Think clearly and write with precision.
- Work independently and manage a defined line of inquiry.
- Engage with complex issues without oversimplification.
- Translate research into structured, usable insight.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate the analytical maturity to engage seriously with real-world financial system contexts from the outset of the fellowship.

HOW TO APPLY: DEADLINE, FRIDAY, 29 MAY, 2026

Applications should be submitted as a single PDF to dialogues@bridgforte.org, titled “*Summer 2026 Research Fellow Application*” and comprising the following:

- **Curriculum vitae** (maximum three pages).
- **Statement of interest** (maximum 600 words), including:
 - motivation for applying;
 - a brief account of relevant experience; and
 - a short analytical response (300 to 400 words) discussing a current issue or challenge in financial services, financial inclusion, or financial system design.
- **One writing sample** demonstrating analytical or policy-oriented work.

INTERVIEWS Shortlisted candidates will be contacted during the week of 1 June 2026.

ABOUT BRIDGFORTE CENTRE FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

The Bridgforte Centre for Global Impact is a policy research and convening institution focused on the structural foundations of financial governance and inclusion in Africa.

Through its research and convening activities, including the Bridgforte Dialogues and the Trust Lab, the Centre engages policymakers, regulators, and industry participants to explore system-level challenges and develop more coherent and resilient approaches to financial sector development.