



Rahamon Bello Best Ph.D. Thesis Award, 2026

Call for Applications

The Institute of African and Diaspora Studies (IADS), University of Lagos, hereby announces the 2026 call for applications for the Rahamon Bello Best Ph.D. Thesis Award in African and Diaspora Studies. This prestigious award seeks to encourage and appreciate early career scholars whose Ph.D. theses address African and diaspora issues and the reconfiguration of African Studies. The award promotes trailblazing intellectual and multidisciplinary research works in African Studies. The honouree of the award, Professor Rahamon Bello, is a former Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

The award recipient will receive a cash prize of US\$1,000 (One Thousand United States Dollars). The first runner-up will be awarded US\$300 (Three Hundred United States Dollars), while the second runner-up will receive US\$200 (Two Hundred United States Dollars).

Eligibility

- An applicant must have completed the doctorate in any university/research institute domiciled in Africa between the 1st of June, 2024 and the 30th of June, 2026;
- An applicant's field of study must be within the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, Management Sciences, and Education.

Documents to be Submitted

Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- A cover letter (letter of interest) outlining the motivation for applying for the award.
- An extended abstract of the Ph.D. thesis, not exceeding **1,500 words**, comprising the following sections: background to the study, statement of the problem, aim and objectives, scope of the study, significance of the study, theoretical framework, methodology, key findings, and contribution to knowledge.
- A soft copy of the completed Ph.D. thesis.
- An up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV) detailing academic qualifications, current academic status, employment history, research experience, and publications.
- A soft copy of the Ph.D. degree certificate.

Please note: All application documents must be submitted in **English**.

How to Apply

Applications should be submitted by email to iads@unilag.edu.ng with the subject line: "**Rahamon Bello Best Ph.D. Thesis Award 2026.**"

Applicants will receive an email acknowledging receipt of their submission.

Important Dates

- **3 July 2026:** Applications open.
- **15 September 2026 (11:59 p.m. WAT):** Application deadline.
- **16 September – 31 October 2026:** Assessment of applications by an independent Selection Committee.
- **16 November 2026:** Announcement of the award winner and runners-up.
- **1 December 2026:** Award presentation ceremony (to be held in a hybrid format).

For further information or enquiries, please contact [**iads@unilag.edu.ng**](mailto:iads@unilag.edu.ng)