



SCHOLARSS INCUBATOR PROGRAM

GUIDE FOR SCHOLARS



AMERICA · AFRICA
ASIA · AUSTRALASIA

JANUARY 2026

WELCOME TO SSL MENA



THE SCHOLARS INCUBATOR PROGRAM

Welcome to the Scholars Incubator Program, a space created to support, empower, and advance emerging scholars on their academic journey. This program is more than a series of sessions or activities, it is a structured environment designed to help you develop your research ideas, strengthen your academic profile, and access opportunities that are often difficult to reach independently. Throughout the program, you will engage in mentorship, joint research activities, focused work spaces, and insightful sessions with senior scholars. You will collaborate with peers who share your commitment to research, benefit from institutional affiliation, and gain practical guidance on publishing, funding applications, and academic career pathways.

This marks the beginning of a collective journey where your curiosity, discipline, and ambition meet structured support and a growing scholarly community. The Scholars Incubator is a place to think deeply, work seriously, and build foundations that extend well beyond the program itself. We invite you to approach this experience with openness and commitment, and to use it as a stepping stone toward meaningful, long-term academic growth.

The SSL MENA

The Social Sciences Lab MENA stands as an independent, non-governmental, and non-partisan institution based in the EU, with a dedicated focus on the MENA region. Our core mission involves establishing an interdisciplinary platform that links Scholars worldwide who share an interest in MENA studies. We aim to foster a robust exchange of diverse perspectives and collaborate on precise research endeavors.

As part of our initiatives, we support independent and emerging Scholars by providing scientific, technical, and financial assistance whenever feasible within ongoing projects. Additionally, drawing upon our extensive network and research expertise in the MENA region, we offer a suite of services. These services encompass managing field research and extending research support to organizations or individuals situated beyond the MENA region.

What's it like
being part of
our programs?

OUR PHILOSOPHY

THE RESEARCHER IS THE PRIORITY

Unlike other institutes that enforce their research agenda or enlist researchers for specific projects, our lab empowers research members and scholars to freely initiate research of their choice.

A SPACE FOR ALL

The Lab unites Scholars passionate about MENA studies, both from within and outside the region, fostering an environment for diverse perspectives to intersect. We also embrace Scholars from various ideologies and orientations while upholding research values and ethics with utmost respect.

RESEARCH & NETWORK

Additionally, we facilitate connections among Scholars across diverse research domains, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration for comprehensive and precise research. This networking opportunity also unites both senior and junior Scholars, harnessing the strengths of each.

FUNDING HUB

The Lab provides its members and scholars with a hub to support their research grants and assists in applying for renowned opportunities like ERC, Horizon Europe, Erasmus, and more.

SCHOLARS BENEFITS

What you will get from being part of our program?

The Lab provides its scholars with a myriad of benefits to bolster their academic journey!

EXPERIENCE

- Participate in a structured 4-month incubator program designed for junior and independent scholars.
- Develop a concrete research project or proposal through guided activities and milestones (Research group).
- Gain hands-on experience in academic research, proposal development, and collaborative work.
- Receive an affiliation certificate, with recognition of trainings and activities attended, as well as support letters whenever needed.

NETWORKING

- Engage with a diverse cohort of junior scholars from the MENA region and beyond.
- Interact with senior scholars, Principal Investigators, and guest speakers during Insightful Sessions.
- Join a growing Lab Community that connects current participants, alumni, and researchers.
- Build long-term academic and professional relationships across institutions and disciplines.

SUPPORT

- Access academic mentorship and supervision tailored to your research stage.
- Receive guidance on research design, publishing strategies, and academic career planning.
- Get support in identifying and preparing applications for grants, fellowships, and research positions.
- Benefit from feedback, peer exchange, and structured support throughout the program.

AFILIATION

- Obtain a 1-year affiliation with a European based research institute.
 - Use the Lab affiliation to apply for research funding, grants, and academic opportunities.
 - Publish, present at conferences, or apply as part of research groups under an institutional framework.
 - Gain access to the Lab's internal resources, institutional email, and academic ecosystem.
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PROGRAM MILESTONES

For more details about the Scholars Incubator program, see the next pages.

1 January

1 March

30 April

31 of December

Start of the
Scholars
Incubator
Program

Start of Research
Groups activities

End of the
Scholars
Incubator
Program

End of first-year
affiliation*

**Extension possible through the Lab community.*

IT'S STARTING... HAVE A GRAND ASPIRATION!

Embarking on the Scholars Incubator Program is a meaningful step toward shaping your academic and research trajectory. This incubator is designed to support emerging scholars as they refine ideas, develop research skills, and navigate academic pathways with greater confidence. Throughout the program, you will engage in guided learning, collaborative exchange, and practical research activities that strengthen both your scholarly profile and professional readiness.

Each milestone achieved reflects your growing capacity to contribute thoughtful, rigorous work to your field. Embrace this experience as a space for growth, experimentation, and connection one that equips you with the tools, networks, and momentum to continue building impactful and sustained scholarly contributions within the wider academic community.



SCHOLARS INCUBATOR PROGRAM

*While the program is ongoing, minor adjustments may occur. Any updates will be communicated clearly through meetings and official email channels.

The Scholars Incubator Program activities will take place remotely, without a fixed daily schedule for meetings and events. Most of the training sessions and workshops will be scheduled on weekends to ensure the participation of all scholars. Despite this flexibility, each task will have a specified deadline. We've carefully calculated the time required for each activity to ensure that the program accommodates your busy schedule.

ACTIVITIES	VALUE	TYPE
Mentorship	30 Min. / Monthly	Individual
Monthly Sessions	1 hour / Monthly	Group
Opportunities Workshops	1 hour / Monthly	Group
Focus Zone	2 hours / Monthly	Group
Bonus - Research Group	Based on available PI's/Scholars	Group



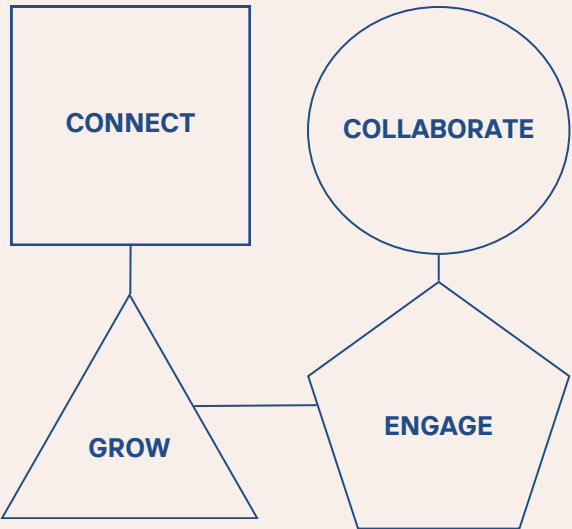
POST PROGRAM

Stay connected. Keep collaborating. Grow your impact!



BOOST YOUR CAREER WITH THE LAB COMMUNITY

As a Lab Community member, you remain affiliated with the Lab beyond your program. We support your research ideas through collaboration opportunities, access to funding calls, integration into research groups, and continuous professional development across the MENA region and beyond.



CONDUCT RESEARCH WITH COLLECTIVE SUPPORT

The Lab Community values diverse perspectives and interdisciplinary approaches. Members retain full intellectual independence while benefiting from mentorship, peer exchange, and institutional support to advance their work toward publication, funding, and real-world impact.

RESEARCH	NETWORK	FUNDS
Research design & guidance	Connect with Lab alumni and scholars	Funding & opportunity database
Peer review and feedback	Collaborative and interdisciplinary research	Proposal review and revision
Access to data & Lab resources	Sharing calls, projects, and opportunities	Application and submission support
Fieldwork and methodological support		Hosting and affiliating projects

WE FILL IN THE GAPS FOR YOU

Our primary goal is to empower researchers by offering targeted support that helps members and scholars overcome challenges and advance their research ambitions.



Social Sciences Lab - MENA
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