

Premio Ensayo Casa África. Essay Award. Prix Essai. Prémio Ensaio. Casa África 2024.

REGULATORY TERMS FOR THE AWARD “CASA ÁFRICA ESSAY”

Article 1. Objective and Purpose.

The objective of this award, in its unique form, is to contribute to the dissemination of knowledge about Africa, by incentivising the research and the distribution of original and unpublished essays written in Spanish, English, French or Portuguese on topics related to the aforementioned continent, by using a balanced, diverse and up-to-date narrative, steered away from the stereotyped and biased images that, in themselves, predominate the collective imagination.

Article 2. Award.

1. The initial amount of the award shall be 2,000 euros.
2. The award will be charged to budget application 83040118CE of the estimated Casa África Budget, and will be subject to any corresponding deductions.
3. The amount of the award will be updated at each call for applications according to the changes in Casa África's income in the corresponding budget year.
4. In case of co-authorship of the winning essay, the award will be prorated between the beneficiary authors, in accordance with the provision of Article 22.1 of Law 38/2003, of November 17, General Subsidies Act.
5. No prizes may be awarded *ex aequo*, and situations of draws must be resolved in compliance with the criteria stated in these regulatory terms.

Article 3. General principles and granting procedure.

1. In accordance with the provision of Article 8.3 of Law 38/2003, of November 17, General Subsidies Act, the management of the award to which these regulatory terms refer will be carried out in accordance with the principles of publicity, transparency, concurrence, objectivity, equality and non-discrimination; effectiveness in meeting the stated objectives and efficiency in the allocation and the utilization of public resources.
2. The granting procedure will be processed on a competitive basis, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 22.1 and 23 to 27, both included, of Law 38/2003, of November 17, General Subsidies Act, and 58 to 64, both included, of the Regulations of Law 38/2003, of November 17, General Subsidies Act, approved by Royal Decree 887/2006, of July 21.

Article 4. Competent bodies for the management, guidance and resolution of the procedure.

1. The competent body to manage and guide the procedure for the granting of the award is the General Secretariat of the Casa África Consortium.

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2. The person in charge of the General Secretariat of the Casa África Consortium shall submit the proposal for granting the award to the person in charge of the General Directorate of the aforementioned entity, the awarding body.

Article 5. Call for applications.

1. The award "Casa África Essay" shall be announced by means of a resolution of the General Directorate of the Casa África Consortium on an annual basis.
2. The call for applications shall establish the estimated budget expenditure to which the award is attributed, previously accrediting the existence of adequate and sufficient credit, as well as the approval of the expenditure.
3. The full text of the call for applications must be published in the National Grants Database (BDNS – Base de Datos Nacional de Subvenciones) and be available on the Consortium's web portal (<http://www.casafrica.es/es>). In addition, an extract of each call for applications must be published in the "Official Gazette of the Spanish State" (BOE - Boletín Oficial del Estado).
4. The call for applications will specify the procedure for the granting of the prize and all the details necessary for its organization and development. It shall contain, at least, the following aspects:
 - a) The reference to these regulatory terms with indication of the "Official Gazette of the Spanish State" (BOE - Boletín Oficial del Estado) in which they are published.
 - b) Expenditure of the estimated budget of the Consortium to which the economic endowment of the award is imputed.
 - c) Objective, conditions and purpose of the granting of the award.
 - d) The theme related to the African continent on which the call for applications is based.
 - e) The determination that the granting of the award is made on a competitive basis.
 - f) Requirements for application for the granting of the award and method of accreditation.
 - g) Indication of the competent bodies for the guidance and resolution of the procedure.
 - h) Deadline for submission of applications, in accordance with the provisions of Article 6.8 of these regulatory terms.
 - i) Resolution and notification deadline of the award granting procedure, which may not exceed six months in accordance with Article 25.4 of Law 38/2003, of November 17. The aforementioned period will be calculated from the publication of the call for applications, unless it is postponed until a later date by the call for applications themselves, in which case the calculation will begin on that date.
 - j) Documents that must accompany the application.
 - k) Indication that the resolution of the call for applications does not terminate administrative proceedings and that an appeal may be lodged against it before the Governing Council of the Casa África Consortium within a period of one month from the following day of its publication, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 121 and 122 of Law 39/2015, of October 1, and Article 43 of the current statutes of the Casa África Consortium.

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- l) Criteria for the evaluation of applications.
 - m) Means of publication, in accordance with the provisions of Article 45 of Law 39/2015, of October 1, of the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations.
5. In accordance with the provisions of Article 37 of Law 39/2015, of October 1, of the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations, the call for applications may not violate the content of these regulatory terms.

Article 6. Applications and causes for exclusion.

1. Those natural persons, over 18 years of age, authors of essays that deal with the theme related to the African content that the Casa África Consortium establishes in each call for applications, and that are written in Spanish, English, French or Portuguese, may apply for this award.
2. Notwithstanding the above, those persons who meet any of the following circumstances are not able to participate:
 - a) Previous recipients of the Award “Casa África Essay” in previous calls for applications.
 - b) Those who hold any type of work or professional relationship with the Casa África Consortium or with any of its integral entities (The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation; The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation; the Government of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands and the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria).
 - c) Those who are related by blood within the fourth degree or by affinity within the second degree to any person who provides services in the Consortium or to any of the members of the Jury constituted in each call for applications.
 - d) Those in which concur any of the circumstances foreseen in Article 13.2 of Law 38/2003, of November 17.
3. The presentation of the applications to participate and the complementary documentation, including the essay, must be made electronically, or in any of the places established in Article 16.4 of Law 39/2015, of October 1, of the Common Administrative Procedure of the Public Administrations.

However, and excepting the expressed opposition of the applicant, it will not be necessary to provide those documents that were already in the possession of Casa África or have been prepared by any other Administration. In this case, the applicant must indicate at which time and in which administrative body such documents were submitted, Casa África must collect them electronically through its corporate networks or a query to the data intermediation platforms or other electronic systems must be enabled for this purpose.

Exceptionally, if Casa África is unable to obtain the aforementioned documents, it may request the participant to provide them again.

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4. The essay linked to each application to participate must be submitted without signature, and must include only its title and the pseudonym that each author-applicant decides to use, guaranteeing anonymity as a means of safeguarding the objectivity and impartiality of the evaluation Jury.
5. Applicants may only submit one essay, even in the case of co-authorship. In the event of a conflict between several applications by the same author, the one submitted first will be accepted and the rest will be rejected.
6. The submission of applications to participate implies acceptance of the contents of these regulatory terms and of the corresponding call for applications.
7. The application form to participate in the award will be included in the corresponding call for applications, and can also be downloaded from the Casa África Consortium web portal (<http://www.casafrica.es/es>).
8. The deadline for the presentation of the applications established in each call for applications cannot be less than 20 days from the moment in which, in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of the Law 38/2003, of November 17, it becomes effective.
9. The following are causes for exclusion of the applications for the award:
 - a) That the essay linked to it is not original or unpublished.
 - b) That the data provided with the application are not accurate or do not comply with the requirements established in these regulatory terms or in the corresponding call for applications.
 - c) That the application is presented outside the period indicated in the call for applications.
 - d) That any of the circumstances listed in the second paragraph of this article apply to the applicant.

Article 7. Guidance, Jury and evaluation criteria.

1. The guiding body will verify the fulfillment of the requirements established in the documentation provided and will carry out ex officio as many actions as it deems necessary to verify the data provided by the applicants.
2. At the end of the period for the presentation of applications, the technical service attached to the instructing body shall proceed to the qualification of the documentation provided by the candidates. After the verification, the investigating body shall formulate a proposal for a provisional list of persons admitted and excluded, and shall submit the same to the General Directorate of the Consortium for its approval and publication by the means indicated in the call for applications.

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3. In the resolution that incorporates the provisional list of persons admitted and excluded, the reasons for exclusion of each application shall be indicated and the interested persons shall be required to correct the lack noted or to accompany the required documents within a period of ten days, with the indication that, if they do not do so, they shall be considered to have withdrawn their request, prior resolution to be issued under the terms provided in Article 21 of Law 39/2015, of October 1, of the Common Administrative Procedure of the Public Administrations.
4. Upon expiration of the period for rectification and verification of the documentation provided in the same, the instructing body shall formulate a proposal for the definitive list of persons admitted and excluded, and shall submit the same to the General Directorate of the Consortium for its approval and publication by the means indicated in the call for applications.
5. Once the resolution approving the definitive list of persons admitted and excluded has been issued, the examining body shall forward the essays linked to the applications for participation admitted to the Jury constituted for each call for applications for their evaluation.
6. The Jury shall be composed of a number of members of no less than three and no more than seven, who shall be appointed by resolution by the head of the General Directorate of Casa África, selected from among personages of recognized prestige in the literary field or in the subject matter of the African continent on which the essays are to be based in each call for applications. In this resolution and from among these members, the person who will occupy the Presidency and the Secretariat of the Jury will be designated.

When the resolution of designation is not that of the call for applications for the award, it must be published on the Casa África Consortium website (<http://www.casafrica.es/es>).

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 51, 54 and the first additional provision of the Organic Law 3/2007, of March 22, for the effective equality of women and men, the composition of the Jury shall respect the principle of balanced presence of men and women, so that the persons of each sex do not exceed sixty percent and are not less than forty percent of the total number of members.

7. The members of the Jury shall be subject to the regime of abstention and recusal provided for in Articles 23 and 24 of Law 40/2015, of October 1, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector.
8. In exceptional situations, and when the nature of the concurrent circumstance so requires, the Presidency of the Jury may decide to hold sessions, adopt resolutions and approve minutes remotely by electronic means, provided that the identity of the participating members is accredited, according to what it is established in Article 17 of Law 40/2015, of October 1, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector.

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Likewise, communication among them must be ensured in real time during the session, and the necessary means must be made available to guarantee the secret or reserved nature of their deliberations.

For these purposes, audio and video conferences shall be considered valid electronic means.

9. As not provided for in these regulatory terms, the composition and operation of the Juries shall be governed by the provisions, for collegiate bodies, in the preliminary title, chapter II, section 3.^a, of Law 40/2015, of October 1, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector, and shall be attended with the personal, material and technical means available in the Casa África Consortium, without this involving an increase in staff costs for any item.
10. In the evaluation of the essays, in order to establish the order of priority derived from the same, as well as the decision of each call for applications, the Jury will take into account the following evaluation criteria, which will be weighted according to the maximum score assigned to each one:
 - a) Conformity of the essay to the objective and purpose of the award, established in Article 1 of these regulatory terms. 0 -10 points.
 - b) Scientific rigor, methodology, depth, creativity, and quality with which the essay is developed. 0 -10 points.
 - c) Clarity of structure facilitating the understanding of the principal ideas of the essay. 0 -10 points.
 - d) Contribution to the dissemination of information relative to the topic related to the African continent which is established in each call for applications. 0 -10 points.
 - e) Providing novel, original, or highly relevant focus points, far removed from purely Eurocentric lines of argument and the stereotypes and simplistic discourse about Africa which are most commonly known. 0 -10 points.
11. The Jury will classify the essays in descending order, after adding the scores obtained in each one of the evaluation criteria.
12. The Jury may propose that the award be declared void when it considers, with due reason, that the essays presented do not conform to the stated objective and purpose or do not reach a score of 7 on the evaluation criterion to which paragraph 10 b) above refers.
13. If the evaluation of the propositions produces a draw in the final score, the draw will be resolved in favour of the essay which obtained the highest score on the evaluation criterion to which paragraph 10 e) above refers. If applying this criterion still produces a draw, as a last resort the draw will be resolved by lottery.
14. The report which the Jury must produce in concordance with the following article must summarize the scores obtained for each essay for each of the criteria mentioned, as well as, when applicable, the reasons to declare the award void.

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Article 8. Granting the award.

1. Once the essays submitted have been evaluated, the Jury shall issue a report specifying the results of the evaluation carried out.
2. The award shall be granted, in view of the proposal formulated by the General Secretariat of the Consortium after the Jury has issued its report on the evaluation of the essays, by resolution of the head of the General Directorate of the Casa África Consortium.
3. The applicant whose essay has been proposed as an award winner will be notified of the final resolution proposal so that they communicate their acceptance within 10 days, without this creating any right in their favor until they have been notified of the award resolution.
4. The award resolution shall state the reasons for the decision, and in any event, the grounds for its adoption, the title of the winning essay, the name of the applicant, the amount of the prize, and specification of its evaluation and the evaluation criteria used to carry it out, shall be accredited in the procedure. It shall also expressly state the general rejection of the rest of the applications.
5. The maximum period for resolving and notifying the resolution of the procedure in each call for applications under the terms of Article 45 of Law 39/2015, of October 1, of the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations, may not exceed six months, in accordance with Article 25.4 of Law 38/2003 of November 17. Said period shall be computed as from the publication of the corresponding call for applications, unless the same postpones its effects to a later date, in which case the computation shall begin on that date.

The expiration of the maximum period without the publication of the resolution shall entitle the interested parties to understand that the application for the awarding of the prizes has been rejected by administrative silence.

6. The resolution of the procedure will be published both in the National Database of Subsidies (BDNS – Base de Datos Nacional de Subvenciones), as well as in the Casa África Consortium's website (<http://www.casafrica.es/es>).
7. In accordance with the provisions of Articles 121 and 122 of Law 39/2015, of October 1, of the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations, and Article 43 of the current Statutes of the Casa África Consortium, an appeal may be lodged with the Governing Council of said Consortium against the resolution of the award procedure, which does not exhaust the administrative channels, within a period of one month from the day following the day of its notification, if the resolution is express; or at any time from the day following the day on which, in accordance with Article 25. 5 of Law 38/2003, of November 17, 2003, the effects of the administrative silence are produced.

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Article 9. Modification of the award resolution.

Any alteration of the conditions taken into account for the awarding of the prize may give rise to the modification of the awarding resolution and, in any event, when:

- a) There are reasonable doubts that the beneficiary is not the author of the essay that he/she provided with his/her application for participation.
- b) There are reasonable doubts that the essay whose authorship is being awarded is not original or unpublished.
- c) It is noted that the beneficiary has submitted two or more essays in the corresponding calls for applications.
- d) It is noted that the essay whose authorship is being awarded has been submitted in previous calls for applications.
- e) The information contained in the beneficiary's documentation provided with the application for participation does not conform to reality or does not comply with the requirements established in these regulatory terms and in the corresponding call for applications.
- f) It is noted that the beneficiary has any type of work or professional relationship with the Casa África Consortium or any of the entities that comprise it (The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The European Union and Cooperation; the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development; the Government of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands and the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria); or is related by blood within the fourth degree or by affinity within the second degree, to any person who provides services in the Consortium, or with any of the members that constitute the Jury.

Article 10. Obligations of the awardee in each call for applications.

1. The awardee may not be involved in any of the situations stated in Article 13.2 of Law 38/2003, of November 17.
2. The awardee will guarantee, as the author of the essay, that he/she holds all the intellectual property rights.
3. The awardee authorizes and assigns free of charge to the Casa África Consortium the rights of use, reproduction, publication, exhibition and public communication, including on social networks, necessary to produce a first edition of up to one thousand copies of the prize-winning essay, as well as to disseminate the same through the Consortium's web portal and other international platforms for the maximum time, and under the conditions, provided for in the revised text of the Intellectual Property Law, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/1996, of April 12, 1996.

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Article 11. Payment of awards.

1. The resolution of concession referred to in article 8 of these regulatory terms entails the commitment, on the part of the Casa África Consortium, of the expenditure corresponding to the payment of the amount of the award.
2. The payment of the award will be made, after the acceptance of the beneficiary, once the resolution of concession referred to in article 8 of these regulatory terms has been issued.
3. The loss of the right to the payment of the monetary prize which the award entails will occur in the event of the concurrence of any of the circumstances described in article 13.1 of these regulatory terms.

Article 12. Compatibility of the award.

The award governed by these regulatory terms is compatible with other subsidies, aids, income or other resources for the same purpose, coming from any Administration or public or private entities, national, of the European Union or international organizations; with the exception of those coming from the Casa África Consortium.

Article 13. Reimbursement.

1. The awardee will undertake to refund the awarded prize when:
 - a) He/she has obtained the award by falsifying the conditions required for it or concealing those that would have prevented it.
 - b) He/she has totally or partially failed to comply with the objective for which the prize was awarded or has not adjusted the essay to the requirements imposed in these regulatory terms or in the corresponding call for applications.
2. In the cases in which any of the causes stated in the previous paragraph occur, the procedure established in Articles 41 to 43, both inclusive, of Law 38/2003, of November 17, and in Articles 94 and 95 of its regulations, will be followed.

Article 14. Publicity and public information about the awardees.

The Casa África Consortium, through the means of publicity available to it, will publish the merits of the person awarded in each edition. To this end, a public ceremony may be convened for the awarding of the prize of each call for applications.

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Article 15. Data protection.

1. Casa África undertakes to process any personal data to which it may have access or which may be transferred in the context of this award in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation) and with the provisions of Organic Law 3/2018 of 5 December on the Protection of Personal Data and the guarantee of digital rights.
2. The purpose for which Casa África will collect such data will be the participation of the applicants in the contest under the terms and conditions set forth in these regulatory terms and in the call for applications; the management and delivery of the award in the case of the winner; and compliance with any tax or other obligations that, where appropriate, may be applicable in relation to the contest prize.