



Royal African Society

Job Title	African Arguments Editor
Salary	£32,000 to £34,000 (depending on experience)
Position	Full-time
Reporting to	Deputy Director
Leave allowance	25 days plus a few days between Christmas and the New Year
Location	RAS Offices at 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PD

Introduction

The Royal African Society (RAS) is Britain's prime Africa organisation and promotes Africa and a better understanding of Africa in the UK and throughout the world. Through its websites, meetings, discussions, publications including its academic journal, African Affairs, and other activities, the Society strengthens links between Africa and Britain. RAS works with a wide range of stakeholder groups to increase understanding of Africa, including academia, business, cultural communities, the diaspora, analysts and policy-makers.

African Arguments Online

African Arguments – www.africanarguments.org - is the RAS's interactive, online political analysis platform. We publish at least one article per day freely available to a global audience with a third of the readership now originating in Africa. African Arguments publishes a combination of pre-commissioned material from professional writers and high-quality unsolicited commentary from journalists, academics, researchers, analysts and other 'Africa Watchers'. Two of our regular contributors are former American Secretaries of State for Africa.

African Arguments also supports African journalism produced within the continent for an international audience. To this end, a part of the commissioning budget - [The African Journalism Fund](#) – is only spent on commissioning professional writers both from and based in an African country.

Currently, African Arguments' analysis has a particularly focus on [Nigeria](#), [The Sudans](#) and the [Great Lakes region of Central Africa](#) (particularly Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and the CAR). However, priorities may change as we develop and seek funding for alternative reporting and analysis projects.

Primary responsibilities

1. Managing the African Arguments website on a day to day basis (approximately 75% of the role). This will include:
 - Commissioning articles.
 - Assessing unsolicited content and communicating with writers.
 - Editing submitted articles.
 - Publishing articles via Word Press Content Management System.
 - Developing and maintaining a pool of writers and analysts.
 - Writing occasional articles for the site and 'covering' RAS events.
 - Managing commissioning budgets and organising payments.
 - Maintaining design and effective functioning of African Arguments.
 - Management of African Arguments twitter account.
2. RAS members
 - Write a weekly briefing for RAS members 'Africa in the News' (400 words) for email circulation.
 - Maintain a good relationship with members who communicate on political issues relevant to this role.
3. Fundraising
 - Managing relationships with existing donors and partners.
 - Developing new partnerships and funding streams.
4. Travel and other external trips
 - Occasional visits to the continent for writing and meetings with new and existing writers.
 - Attend relevant seminar, panel discussions and conferences.
5. Events
 - Organise 'African Arguments' roundtable events series, including existing partnership with International Crisis Group.
 - Develop new 'African Argument' event series and partnerships.
 - Feed into RAS events programme with theme ideas and speakers.

Person Specification

- Strong editing skills and experience with excellent attention to detail.
- Excellent and versatile writing skills.
- Good knowledge of African current affairs and the international politics.
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Ability to manage discrete projects and report to funders.
- Have an existing network of writers and analysts.

- IT competence and previous experience of online publishing programme.
- Knowledge of French would be desirable but not essential.
- Commitment to the values and ethos of the Royal African Society.

Applicants should have the right to work in the UK.

The RAS is an equal opportunities employer

Please send your CV with a covering letter outlining why you think you are suitable for this position to Richard May at rm32@soas.ac.uk

The covering letter should not be more than 1,000 words long and should demonstrate with reference to the Person Specification your suitability for the job using examples of any relevant skills and experience.

The closing date for applications is 5 pm on Wednesday 17th June. Interviews are planned for Monday 22nd June.

Due to the large number of applications that we usually receive, it may not be possible to write to you should you not be shortlisted.