Within the Leiden African Studies Assembly (LeidenASA) programme between six and nine Africanist/African Studies academics are invited to Leiden every year on a three-month fellowship to promote an effective academic dialogue between Africa and the North. These scholars use their stay in Leiden for data analysis and writing, and present a seminar.

A prize is awarded annually for the best master’s thesis on Africa by a student at a university in the Netherlands or in Africa. The winning thesis is published in the African Studies Collection series.

The ASCL Community includes (honorary) fellows, affiliates, artists and associates of the Centre, and people with a professional interest in Africa who are working in business, policymaking, NGOs and in media circles.

The only multidisciplinary academic research institute in the Netherlands devoted entirely to the study of Africa.
The African Studies Centre Leiden (ASCL), founded in 1947, is the only knowledge institute in the Netherlands devoted entirely to the study of Africa. It undertakes research, is involved in teaching about Africa and aims to promote a better understanding of African societies. The Centre is part of Leiden University and participates in the LeidenGlobal network. The ASCL’s work is not only of importance to researchers, but also to policymakers, journalists, NGOs, businesses and other organizations.

The ASCL’s collaborative research groups and research Chairs are at the heart of the overall research programme. Projects are multidisciplinary and empirical in nature, and are carried out in cooperation with African colleagues and institutions. See: www.ascleiden.nl/content/research

The ASCL offers a two-year Research Master in African Studies in cooperation with Leiden University’s Faculty of Humanities. The two-year master prepares for a research career. Moreover, the ASCL is closely involved in a one-year Master in African Studies. In 2018, the ASCL will start a Graduate School.

The ASCL’s Library, Documentation and Information Department has the most extensive and specialized collection on Africa in the Netherlands in the fields of the social sciences (including law and economics) and the humanities. The library, which is open to the general public, has more than 90,000 books, 1,700 documentaries and feature films from and about Africa, and subscribes to nearly 750 (e-)periodicals. Digital Open Access publications form an important part of the library. African Studies Abstracts Online offers some 10,000 abstracts and journal articles, and web dossiers provide background information on specific topical events and themes. See: www.ascleiden.nl/content/library

ASCL researchers publish in many different journals and with well-known publishing houses. The Centre has several publication series of which African Dynamics (published with Brill) is the most prominent.

The ASCL’s collaborative research groups organize seminars on a wide range of topics. Each year the ASCL Professors invite renowned international Africanists to give a seminar that is open to the general public.

‘The ASCL researches why people in Africa do what they do and what motivates them.’