



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Ninth Edition of the Academy of Constitutional Law

August – September 2024

“Socio-Economic Rights in Arab Constitutions: between Text and Practice”

Deadline for submitting applications: 15 June 2024

Introduction: The Arab Association of Constitutional Law (AACL) is organizing the ninth edition of the Academy of Constitutional Law (the Academy). The 2024 edition of the Academy will be held **in person** in an Arab capital over a **7-day period, between August and September 2024**. The exact dates will be announced later.

The Academy is part of an effort to encourage a more dynamic, continuous, and in-depth exchange of ideas between scholars, practitioners, and policymakers in the Arab and MENA region. The Academy seeks to identify trends in constitution-making and constitutional developments across the region and create a space for experts to engage with each other on a selected number of substantive areas, further providing them with the opportunity to explore possible solutions to their common or country-specific problems.

Academy proceedings: Academy participants will take part in an in-person training program between August and September 2024. Following that period, each participant will work on implementing an advocacy project. All advocacy projects will involve the development of a policy paper related to the theme of the Academy as well as the implementation of at least two advocacy activities to disseminate its contents (see below). Academy participants will receive training and guidance from prominent Arab and international scholars to enhance their methodological, research and advocacy skills, as well as their scientific knowledge of the chosen theme. The trainers, reviewers, and AACL will work closely with the participants to develop their papers and implement the agreed-to advocacy activities.

The policy papers: Academy participants will be required to produce their papers in Arabic. Papers of high-quality will be featured in the publications of the AACL.

The policy papers must:

- (i) Focus on socio-economic rights in Arab Constitutions :
- (ii) Specify the research methods employed to collect the data in relation to the aspects discussed ;



- (iii) Report their findings concisely and draw clear conclusions ;
- (iv) Formulate specific recommendations in relation to those findings and conclusions; and
- (v) Where relevant, adopt a comparative approach.

Advocacy research

Participants will be required to conduct their research with the intention of providing evidence and arguments that can be used to support a particular position with respect to the constitutional and legal frameworks affecting socio-economic rights and their implementation.

Socio-Economic Rights in Arab Constitutions: research focus areas

The 9th Academy will address the following questions:

- The historical antecedents to socioeconomic rights in the region (including but not limited to Arab and Islamic traditions) ;
- How socio-economic rights are worded in constitutional provisions; the obstacles to the enforceability of these rights; the advances made in the implementation of socioeconomic rights, particularly by the courts ;
- Remedies provided for their violation; and litigation in comparative practice and in national traditions in the region in relation to the direct application of socio-economic rights, including strategic litigation.

Advocacy activities: Academy participants will be required to implement at least two advocacy activities.

Advocacy activities can include, among others: publication of opinion-editorial articles, organization of conferences with the target audience (including decisions-makers, political parties, the media, civil society organizations, academia, etc.), social media campaigns; briefings and lobbying with the target audience, etc.

Advocacy activities must:

- (i) Be based on the findings of the policy paper ;
- (ii) Be realistic in scope ;
- (iii) Identify the target audience ;



- (iv) Include a description of the steps that will be taken for their implementation; and
- (v) Include a description of their intended outcome and desired impact.

How to apply to the Academy: Participants will be selected according to a competitive process, taking into account gender and geographic representation. Early-career scholars and practitioners researching constitutional guarantees in general and constitutional courts in particular are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must be fluent in both written and spoken Arabic. Working knowledge of a second language would be considered an advantage.
- Between the ages of 22 and 37. Applicants outside the specified age range may be admitted in exceptional cases.
- Enrolled in a PhD program or having obtained a master's degree or doctorate in law or political science or a related field.
- Demonstrate an interest in constitutional law and constitutional developments in the Arab and MENA region, particularly in relation to socio-economic rights in Arab constitutions.
- Available to participate in person in all scheduled days of the Academy in August-September 2024.
- Commit to work on their advocacy project following the Academy. This involves accepting methodological and scientific comments received from trainers and reviewers regarding their policy papers as well as guidance regarding the implementation of their advocacy activities.

Interested candidates are required to submit a complete application by email to charbel.chaaya@dustour.org **no later than 15 June 2024**. Priority will be given to candidates not having participated in previous editions of the Academy.

Applications should include the following:

- (i) Their CV;
- (ii) A proposal (maximum 1000 words) describing the advocacy project, including the subject of the policy paper and research question it will address, as well as at least two advocacy activities and how the participants plans to implement them;
- (iii) A writing sample in Arabic related to constitutional law in general or the subject matter of the Academy; and



- (iv) A letter of recommendation from a current or former supervisor or manager.

Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an online interview.

Expenses and honorarium: The AACL will cover all expenses related to travel fees, accommodation, academic materials, trainer, and expert fees.

In addition, each Academy participant will be paid an honorarium upon completion of the advocacy project, if the policy paper is accepted for publication by the AACL and the agreed-to advocacy activities are implemented.

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