

Funding Initiative

Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities at Universities and Research Institutes in Germany and the U.S.

Call for Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities at Universities and Research Institutes in Germany

Deadline

October 8, 2015

Contact

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The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

www.mellon.org

1. Introduction

These postdoctoral fellowships in the humanities are jointly offered by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Volkswagen Foundation. They aim at enabling postdoctoral researchers based in the U.S. to spend some time conducting studies at universities or research institutes in Germany. These studies can either be undertaken at a university or research institute of the candidate's choice or at a cooperating institute (listed below). The **fellowships** are usually granted for a **period of 9 to up to 12 months**, **although** in exceptional cases a funding period of **18 months** is also possible.

Through these fellowships, junior scholars are offered a chance to

- pursue research in the humanities in an attractive international environment,
- take advantage of interdisciplinary scholarly discussion and research networks,
- use local libraries, archives, and other facilities, and attend international conferences, symposia, etc.,
- gain experience in a non-American university system by teaching courses to undergraduate and graduate students, depending on the needs of the respective academic departments.

The call addresses promising young scholars in their postdoctoral research phase currently **based at institutions in the U.S.**, who wish to strengthen their research capacity in the humanities. Scholars who work in an interdisciplinary field are especially encouraged to apply. To be eligible, applicants should have finished their Ph.D. after October 1st, 2010.

The **grants** will be awarded for a period of **9 - 12 months** for the academic year 2016/2017. In exceptional cases, candidates can apply for a fellowship of up to 18 months – given, of course, that this is agreed upon with both the home and host institution. In general, the starting month for a fellowship is August or September. Alternative starting dates may be arranged upon consultation with the host institution after a grant has been awarded.

2. Finances and Eligibility

Grants cover a postdoctoral fellowship (2,100 Euros per month) plus international health insurance, visa, travel expenses (two return flights U.S.-Germany-U.S.), conference participation in Europe, and rent/additional living costs (approx. 1,000 Euros per month). Fellows can also apply for funds to cover small technical equipment (limited to up to 5% of the total budget), consumables, literature, etc. (Please note that non-personnel expenditure can add up to 10,000 Euros for a period of three months (i.e. up to 40,000 EUR for a fellowship of 12 months)). In addition, the Foundations provide a total sum of 10,000 Euros for a workshop to be organized by the fellow and a maximum of 3,000 Euros for administrative costs for the host institution/department.

Please indicate in your application whether you intend to travel with family and would like to apply for an allowance for child care, according to the information on family-related benefits provided by the Volkswagen Foundation (see www.volkswagenstiftung.de -> funding -> family and career). (Please note that funds budgeted for child care can only be used for this purpose.) If you apply for any such subsidies, the total sum of the fellowship increases accordingly.

Grants will be made to the German institution that hosts the respective candidate.

3. Choosing a Host Institution

As noted, candidates can either **independently choose a host institution** for their fellowship or select one of the cooperating institutes listed below. Candidates who apply for a fellowship at an institution not listed below have to **provide a letter from this institution confirming the support** of the candidate's application and its willingness to host the fellow (*see additional form*). Please note that candidates choosing an institution different from those cooperating with the Foundations has no effect on their prospects for success in this call.

Over the years, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Volkswagen Foundation have established **close cooperation with a number of universities and institutes in Germany** who are willing to host postdoctoral fellows as part of this scheme. If one of these institutes is chosen, there is **no need to provide a separate letter of support** by the institute.

1. Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS)

Information on Partner Institution

Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS)
http://www.frias.uni-freiburg.de/en/home?set_language=en

The Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS) is the University of Freiburg's international research college. The institute supports academically excellent and innovative research projects in all disciplines represented at Freiburg through individual or group fellowships.

The aim of FRIAS is to support academic exchange across existing boundaries: between disciplines, between different cultures and countries, between established and younger researchers. FRIAS engages in activities opening the research community to society and politics. FRIAS is close to both France and Switzerland and actively takes advantage of the rich intellectual resources of this truly European region. Accommodation is available through the university guest house and additional centrally located apartments. Special attention is drawn to supporting fellows who plan to come to Freiburg with their families.

Your contact persons at FRIAS are:

Dr. Carsten Dose, Managing Director, e-mail: carsten.dose@frias.uni-freiburg.de and Dr. Katrin Brandt, Program Coordinator, e-mail: katrin.brandt@frias.uni-freiburg.de.

2. University of Göttingen, Lichtenberg-Kolleg

Information on Partner Institution

University of Göttingen, Lichtenberg-Kolleg
<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/90729.html>

Named after one of the most important and versatile representatives of the Göttingen Enlightenment, the Lichtenberg-Kolleg is an interdisciplinary research institute with a strong focus not only on the Enlightenment(s), but also on "bridges" between the human and natural sciences and on issues of religion and modernity.

The institute invites junior scholars to join one of the research teams established in 2015. These teams will continue the current research at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg focused on 1) Göttingen and European Enlightenment(s) within its wider Atlantic and Global Contexts, 2) Bridges between the natural and human sciences, 3) Religion and Modernity, 4) The Diaries of Anne Frank. Research-Translations-Critical Edition. The composition of each research group will be a mixture of Senior Fellows, Mid-Career Fellows, Junior Research Fellows (JRF), Göttingen Faculty, and Ph.D. students. For JRF, they provide the opportunity to take their research to a more advanced level following their doctorate, and to prepare themselves for their professional future as academic teachers, researchers, and administrators.

**Information on Partner
Institution**

**Konstanz University,
Center of Excellence/Institute
for Advanced Study and
Zukunftskolleg**

<http://www.exc16.de>

<http://www.zukunftskolleg.uni-konstanz.de>

www.exzellenzcluster.uni-konstanz.de/kolleg.html

Your contact person at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg is:

Prof. Dr. Martin van Gelderen, e-mail: Lichtenbergkolleg@zvw.uni-goettingen.de.

3. Konstanz University, Center of Excellence/Institute for Advanced Study and Zukunftskolleg

Founded in 1966, the University of Konstanz is a modern and progressive institution of higher learning. Through its commitment to a "Culture of Creativity", Konstanz is one of eleven Centers of Excellence in German Universities and is counted among Germany's most prestigious research and learning institutions.

The Zukunftskolleg is a pillar in the University's strategy for supporting young academics. Here, one finds excellent research conditions and an inspiring scientific environment where young postdoctoral fellows of all disciplines work freely as independent researchers and exchange their ideas with senior fellows that are recognized experts.

In the Center of Excellence "Cultural Foundations of Social Integration," academics from the humanities and social sciences tackle a specific theme: processes of social integration and disintegration of all levels of society. Great value is placed on an international and general social perspective when articulating and validating the theses and outcomes of Center researchers.

The Institute for Advanced Study is one of the Center's main facilities. With its two common objectives of "Creating Free Scopes for Research" and "Fostering International Exchange", it has developed into both an important international center for cultural-studies research and a focal point of international scholarly networking at the Center of Excellence. A special quality of the Institute is the informal and intensive exchange between senior fellows and those at earlier points in their careers. External fellows also have close working relations with scholars at Konstanz University.

Your contact person at the Center of Excellence/Institute for Advanced Study is:

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schlögl, e-mail: Rudolf.Schloegl@uni-konstanz.de

Dr. Svenia Schneider-Wulf, Academic Coordination Institute for Advanced Study, e-mail: svenia.schneider@uni-konstanz.de.

Your contact person at the Zukunftskolleg is:

Prof. Dr. Giovanni Galizia, e-mail: Giovanni.Galizia@uni-konstanz.de.

4. Freie Universität Berlin, Dahlem Humanities Center

Information on Partner Institution

Freie Universität Berlin,
Dahlem Humanities Center
<http://www.fu-berlin.de/dhc>

Humanities research at Freie Universität has a breadth and diversity unparalleled in Germany. The central hub of the many departments and activities is the Dahlem Humanities Center (DHC), which was founded in 2007 with a mission of detecting new trends in the humanities and creating interdisciplinary networks a) within Freie Universität, b) on a national level, and c) on an international level. Since then, DHC has been cooperating with non-university research organizations, cultural institutions, and the humanities centers at leading universities around the world and has generated important new impulses for humanities research in Berlin. A wide variety of events and program series, such as the Hegel Lectures, the Dahlem Humanities Center Lectures, Concept Laboratories, Workshops, as well as Junior and Senior Fellowships create the basis for a vibrant exchange of knowledge and new ideas. From 2010 to 2013, the DHC has been co-funded as a pilot project by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Since 2013, the DHC has hosted the DAAD-funded Thematic Network "Principles of Cultural Dynamics".

Your contact person at the Dahlem Humanities Center is:
Prof. Dr. Joachim Küpper, Director, e-mail: jokup@zedat.fu-berlin.de.

5. Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO)

Information on Partner Institution

Zentrum Moderner Orient
(ZMO)
http://www.zmo.de/index_e.html

The Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) is the only German research institute devoted to an interdisciplinary and comparative study of the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia, and South and Southeast Asia from a historical perspective. Current research focuses on the interaction between predominantly Muslim societies and their relations with non-Muslim neighbours. ZMO was founded in 1996 as one of six independent, non-profit research centers.

Your contact person at the ZMO is:
Dr. Hagen Findeis, e-mail: hagen.findeis@zmo.de.

6. German Archaeological Institute (DAI)

Information on Partner Institution

German Archaeological
Institute (DAI)
<http://www.dainst.org/de>

The German Archaeological Institute (DAI) is the largest institution in the field of international archaeological research in Germany. The numerous projects of the DAI cover a wide range of archaeological disciplines and related topics. Its four domestic branches at Berlin (head office; Eurasia Department; Orient Department), Frankfurt (Roman-Germanic Commission), Bonn (Commission for Archaeology of Non-European Cultures), and Munich (Commission for Ancient History and Epigraphy) are all located in major cities with exceptional research environments and provide excellent libraries of international importance. The DAI places great value on international cooperation and interdisciplinary exchange. Other primary concerns are conservation methods and the preservation of cultural heritage in general. Research guests of the domestic branches are also welcome to

communicate with DAI departments abroad (Rome, Athens, Madrid, Istanbul, and Cairo).

Your contact person at the German Archaeological Institute is:
Prof. Dr. Christof Schuler, e-mail: christof.schuler@dainst.de.

7. Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

Information on Partner Institution

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
www.smb.museum

The Staatliche Museen zu Berlin is a Universal Museum for the preservation, research, and mediation of treasures of art and culture in the entire history of humanity. Its collections embrace European and non-European art, archaeology, and ethnology. The Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, whose origins lie in the foundation of the Royal Museum through Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia, belongs to the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz. Other members of the Stiftung are the State Library, the State Archive, the Ibero-American Institute, and the State Institute for Music Research, with the Museum of Musical Instruments. Supported collectively by the German government and the federal states, the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin regards itself as a national institution of cultural federalism in Germany.

Your contact person at the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin is:
Dr. Jörg Völlnagel, e-mail: forschung@smb.spk-berlin.de

8. German National Library

Information on Partner Institution

German National Library
http://www.dnb.de/DE/Home/home_node.html

The German National Library in Frankfurt and Leipzig is entrusted with the task of collecting, permanently archiving, bibliographically classifying, and making available to the general public all German and German-language publications since 1913, foreign publications about Germany, translations of German works, and the works of German-speaking emigrants published abroad between 1933 and 1945. The German National Library maintains cooperative relations on a national and international level.

Your contact person at the German National Library is:
Dr. Elisabeth Niggemann, e-mail: e.niggemann@dnb.de.

9. Herzog August Bibliothek

Information on Partner Institution

Herzog August Bibliothek
<http://www.hab.de/en/home.html>

The Herzog August Bibliothek is an international research centre specialising in the study of medieval and early modern cultural history. All research at the library is based on its rich holdings of manuscripts, rare books and graphic art. The library functions as a national repository for 17th-century German imprints and offers a broad program of research projects, conferences, exhibitions, publications and cultural events. Its own residential fellowship program brings researchers from all over the world to Wolfenbüttel and promotes an atmosphere of scholarly exchange.

Your contact person at the Herzog August Bibliothek is:
Prof. Dr. Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer, e-mail: forschung@hab.de.

Information on Partner Institution

German Literature Archive
<http://www.dla-marbach.de/>

10. German Literature Archive

The German Literature Archive in Marbach (DLA) is one of the most famous literary institutions worldwide. In its libraries the DLA collects and preserves a wide range of the most valuable sources of literary and intellectual history, from 1750 up to the present day. The campus offers a unique combination of research library, archive, and museums. The manuscripts, documents, and letters contained in more than 1,400 literary estates provide ideal conditions for advanced research.

Your contact person at the German Literature Archive is:
Prof. Dr. Ulrich Raulff, e-mail: forschung@dla-marbach.de

Information on Partner Institution

Leibniz-Institute of European History
<http://www.ieg-mainz.de/>

11. Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG)

The Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG) in Mainz, founded in 1950, is an independent research institute dedicated to researching the historical foundations of Europe. The IEG research covers European history from the 15th to the 20th century. The central topic of its research program is "Negotiating Difference in Modern Europe". Three main research units investigate the political and social as well as the religious and cultural dimensions of otherness and inequality. The Institute consists of a Department for General History and a Department of Religious History which cooperate closely in the joint research program. It employs more than three dozen academics conducting historical research.

Your contact person at the Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG) in Mainz is: Dr. Kevin Anding, e-mail: anding@ieg-mainz.de.

Information on Partner Institution

Leopoldina Centre for Science Studies
<http://www.leopoldina.org/de/ueber-uns/studienzentrum/>

12. Leopoldina Centre for Science Studies

The German National Academy's Research Centre was established in October 2012. It aims to design and carry out research projects in history and the philosophy of science. Since international cooperation is essential for covering these fields adequately, partnerships with academies and research institutions abroad (e.g. in the U.K., France, and China) have been established for several projects. The launch pad for this research is provided by the outstanding sources, archival materials, and books that are available in the collections of the Leopoldina archive and library and in the Halle-Leipzig area. Moreover, the centre aims to host research projects that strive to connect historical questions with major cross-disciplinary topics of current interest.

Your contact person at the Leopoldina Centre for Science Studies in Halle (Saale) is:
Prof. Dr. Rainer Godel, e-mail: rainer.godel@leopoldina.org.

Electronic Application

Please use the Foundation's application system portal.volkswagenstiftung.de for the electronic submission of your application. Please do not forget to 1. print, 2. sign and 3. upload the scanned signature sheet. Instructions on the application system are provided online.

4. Selection Process

The selection of candidates is jointly organized by the Volkswagen Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in a two-stage procedure. In the first step, all proposals submitted to the Volkswagen Foundation are reviewed and assessed by international experts. Based on these reviews, a shortlist of candidates is generated, who are then invited to present their proposed project at a review panel meeting in New York. This forms the second step of the selection process and the basis for the final decisions on the applications. The personal presentations of shortlisted candidates are scheduled for early March 2016.

5. How to Apply and Checklist

The **deadline for applications** is **October 8, 2015**. Applications must be written in **English** and submitted to the Volkswagen Foundation electronically via the online application system:

<https://portal.volkswagenstiftung.de/>

Please indicate in your application whether you have a pending application or plans to apply for a fellowship provided by another institution. Please note that financial commitments entered into prior to receipt of a grant letter cannot be covered.

The Volkswagen Foundation can award grants to academic institutions only. For applications to institutions other than universities and well-known publicly-maintained research institutions, please provide details on the legal status, statutes, trustees and boards, charitable/non-profit status, and budgeting and auditing of the institution to be funded. Please also include an annual report of the institution.

Please make sure that your application includes the following documents:

- Signature sheet uploaded via the electronic application system of the Volkswagen Foundation (this sheet can be generated as part of the online application),
- Cover letter,
- Summary of the research project (max. 2,100 characters including spaces),
- Research proposal, including
 - description of the research topic,
 - reference list,
 - relation to previous research,
 - importance for the intended career,
 - expectations with respect to the stay at the university/institution,

- a topic for a course to be offered and provided at the host faculty (undergraduate/graduate students), including a preliminary course syllabus.

Proposals must be **limited to 10 pages** (arial, 12, 1,5 spaced, max. 17,000 characters excluding spaces); research proposals of more than 10 pages will not be accepted.

- Budget (in Euros) as follows:
 - personnel expenditure (2,100 Euros per month),
 - travel expenses (two return flights U.S.-Germany-U.S., conference participation in Europe, international health insurance, rent/accommodation costs, visa),
 - workshop funds (10,000 Euros),
 - recurring non-personnel expenses (e.g. consumables),
 - non-recurrent expenses (e.g. literature, small technical equipment (limited to up to 5% of the total budget)).
 - If applicable: allowance for child care, according to the information on family-related benefits of the Foundation.
- Budget justification (a brief explanation of the budget, maximum of one page),
- Curriculum vitae including a list of publications (maximum of 4 pages),
- Copies of university certificates (M.A. and Ph.D.),
- One short publication of interest (article length),
- Letter confirming that leave of absence will be granted by the U.S. University/Institution (see form), if applicable,
- Letter of confirmation to support the candidate's application by the potential host institution (only applicable if not listed as part of the cooperating institutions) (see form).