

## 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

September 12, 2017

### Contact

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**The Andrew W. Mellon  
Foundation**  
[www.mellon.org](http://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 at academic institutions 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.

## 2. Eligibility and Finances

This 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 PhD after October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.** As this call addresses postdoctoral candidates, the PhD must be completed by the time of application (i.e. by September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017). Please also note that, to be eligible under this scheme, candidates must have been based in the U.S. for at least two years directly prior to the application.

The **grants** will be awarded for a period of **9 - 12 months** for the academic year 2018/2019. 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.

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 (preferably) in Europe, and rent/additional living costs (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 (research and work-related), 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 maximum of 3,000 Euros for administrative costs for the host institution/department as well as a total sum of 10,000 Euros for a workshop to be organized by the fellow. Please note that these workshop funds cannot be used to cover honoraria for invited guests. Please also note that these fellowships do not cover employment of any support staff (e.g. research assistants).

Please indicate **in your application** whether you intend to travel with family and would like to apply for an allowance for child care (and other family-related costs), according to the **information on family-related benefits** provided by the Volkswagen Foundation (see [www.volkswagenstiftung.de](http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de) -> funding -> for grant recipients -> additional funding and training opportunities -> family and career). We advise you to consider any additional items that result from the information on family-related benefits in your initial budget. 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](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](mailto:carsten.dose@frias.uni-freiburg.de) and Dr. Katrin Brandt, Program Coordinator, e-mail: [katrin.brandt@frias.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:katrin.brandt@frias.uni-freiburg.de)

#### 2. Lichtenberg-Kolleg, Göttingen Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences

##### 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 Studies, but also on intellectual history and the history of political thought, as well as on the study of human rights and religious diversity and of "bridges" between the human and natural sciences.

The institute invites early career scholars to join one of our research groups focusing on 1) Göttingen and European Enlightenment(s) within its wider Atlantic and Global Contexts, 2) Human Rights, Constitutional Politics and Religious Diversity, 3) Modern Jewish Studies: literary, intellectual and cultural history, and 4) European Intellectual History / History of Political Thought. The composition of each research group will be a mixture of Senior Fellows, Mid-Career Fellows, Early Career Fellowships (ECF), Göttingen Faculty, and Ph.D. students. ECFs offer early career scholars opportunities to take their research to more advanced levels set up new projects and prepare themselves for their professional future as academic teachers, researchers, and administrators.

Your contact persons at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg are:

Prof. Dr. Martin van Gelderen, Dr. Kora Baumbach and Dr. Dominik Hünninger, e-mail: [Lichtenbergkolleg@zvw.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:Lichtenbergkolleg@zvw.uni-goettingen.de)

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

#### 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](http://www.exzellenzcluster.uni-konstanz.de/kolleg.html)

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](mailto:Rudolf.Schloegl@uni-konstanz.de)

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

Your contact person at the Zukunftskolleg is:  
Prof. Dr. Giovanni Galizia, e-mail: [Giovanni.Galizia@uni-konstanz.de](mailto: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, ranging from ancient cultures to the present, from texts to material artifacts, from ideas to structures, all across the globe, with special strengths in Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, and East Asia. The central hub of the many departments and activities is the Dahlem Humanities Center (DHC), founded in 2007 with a mission of detecting and promoting 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, Research Workshops, as well as International Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs create the basis for a vibrant exchange of knowledge and new ideas. Fellows at the Dahlem Humanities Center will additionally be affiliated with a Department in the Humanities at Freie Universität Berlin, in order to offer both the breadth and freedom of interdisciplinary perspectives, and connections and expertise in their own discipline. Applicants are therefore encouraged to suggest potential academic contacts/mentors for the time of their fellowship.

Your contact persons at the Dahlem Humanities Center are:  
Prof. Dr. Paul Nolte, Director, e-mail: [paul.nolte@fu-berlin.de](mailto:paul.nolte@fu-berlin.de) and Katja Heinrich, Academic Coordinator, e-mail: [k.heinrich@fu-berlin.de](mailto:k.heinrich@fu-berlin.de)

#### 5. Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO)

##### Information on Partner Institution

Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO)  
[http://www.zmo.de/index\\_e.html](http://www.zmo.de/index_e.html)

The Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin 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. Under the current research focus “Muslim Worlds – World of Islam?”, scholars at the center focus on the tensions between Islamic normativity, seen as highly flexible and contingent upon local, political, and religious circumstances, and everyday life, which interacts with religion to varying degrees. Since 2014, work at the institute has concentrated on four areas of research that open up different perspectives: 1) Progress: Ideas, Agents, Symbols; 2) The Politics of Resources; 3) Trajectories of Lives and Knowledge; 4) Cities as Laboratories of Change. Working papers and so-called “programmatic texts” for each of these research areas are available from the ZMO website. Visiting fellows are

invited to join at least one of the four groups. As of 2017, the ZMO is set to join the Leibniz Association, a network of 88 independent research institutes.

Your contact person at the ZMO is:  
Dr. Stefan B. Kirmse, e-mail: stefan.kirmse@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](http://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

#### Information on Partner Institution

**German National Library**  
[http://www.dnb.de/DE/Home/home\\_node.html](http://www.dnb.de/DE/Home/home_node.html)

## 8. German National Library

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 co-operative 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](mailto:e.niggemann@dnb.de)

#### Information on Partner Institution

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

## 9. Herzog August Bibliothek

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. Peter Burschel, Director, e-mail: [forschung@hab.de](mailto: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: [stipendien@dl-marbach.de](mailto:stipendien@dl-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 is an international research institute. The institute conducts research on the historical foundations of Europe in the modern age. Its interdisciplinary research is developed and conducted by two departments, of *Abendländische Religionsgeschichte* and of *Universalgeschichte*. Its research ranges from the early modern age to the present. The IEG's current research programme is conducted under the heading of addressing and dealing with difference: how difference is enabled, established and coped with in its religious, cultural,

political and social dimensions. Scholars at all levels of qualification work together to create an interdisciplinary and international research environment in the IEG. Accommodation is available in the institute's guest rooms. Your contact person at the Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG) in Mainz is: Barbara Müller, M. A., e-mail: [mueller@ieg-mainz.de](mailto:mueller@ieg-mainz.de)

## 12. Leopoldina Centre for Science Studies

### Information on Partner Institution

**Leopoldina Centre for Science Studies**

<http://www.leopoldina.org/de/ueber-uns/studienzentrum/>

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](mailto:rainer.godel@leopoldina.org)

## 13. Universität Münster, Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics"

### Information on Partner Institution

**Universität Münster, Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics"**

<http://www.uni-muenster.de/Religion-und-Politik/en/>

The Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics in Pre-Modern and Modern Cultures" was founded in 2007 at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster (WWU). Some 200 academics from more than 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and from around 14 countries deal with the relationship between religion and politics across epochs and cultures. Nationally, this is the largest research association analyzing religion. The Cluster of Excellence is closely associated with three centers for interdisciplinary religious research at the WWU that could act as co-hosts: the Centre for Religion and Modernity (CRM), the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (CMF), and the Centre for Eastern Mediterranean History and Culture (GKM).

Both the Cluster of Excellence and the research centers investigate the relationship between religion and politics in different constellations of power and situations of conflict – from antiquity through the present, spanning the polytheism of antiquity, the religions of Africa and East Asia, and the scripture-based monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam in their diverse developments and interrelationships. Its members – both from the empirical and the more normative sciences – cooperate across interdisciplinary boundaries and are well connected internationally. They do empirical research and, at the same time, provide reflective knowledge for pressing present-day problems in a globalized society. The recent exacerbation of multiple political-religious conflicts around the world has



underlined the importance of academic discourse on the interrelationship between “religion and politics”.

We are seeking postdoctoral researchers who have demonstrated high competence in interdisciplinary studies, have proven their ability to communicate their research to a variety of forums, and have the potential to establish themselves in international arenas. In order to facilitate communication and collaboration within our research community, applicants who are not proficient in German will be encouraged to attend German language courses.

Your contact person at the Cluster of Excellence is:  
Dr. Iris Fleßenkämper, Executive Coordinator, e-mail: [irisfle@uni-muenster.de](mailto:irisfle@uni-muenster.de)

#### 14. Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS)

##### Information on Partner Institution

Universität Heidelberg,  
Heidelberg Centre for  
Transcultural Studies (HCTS)  
<http://www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/hcts.html>

The Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS) is a central research institution of the University of Heidelberg. It assembles outstanding scholars from all over the world especially in the humanities and social sciences to engage in an interdisciplinary dialogue with a focus on the dynamics of global transcultural processes.

The aim of the HCTS is to establish the concept of transculturality as a basic approach in the humanities and social sciences and to contribute to a deeper understanding of cultures in the global interactions of our times. Therefore, it creates a space for scientific exchange and dialogue as well as a tight connection between research and teaching. It develops a research environment that fits the particular conditions of transcultural research crossing linguistic, source, media and political borders.

Founded in 2013, the HCTS builds on the structures established by the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context: The Dynamics of Transculturality”, funded by the German Excellence Initiative.

Your contact persons at the HCTS are:  
Prof. Dr. Joseph Maran, Director, e-mail: [maran@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:maran@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de) and Dr. Oliver Lamers, Scientific Project Manager, e-mail: [lamers@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:lamers@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de)

## Electronic Application

Please use the Foundation's application system [portal.volkswagenstiftung.de](https://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 the end of February or beginning of March 2018.

## 5. How to Apply and Checklist

The **deadline for applications** is **September 12, 2017**. Applications must be written in **English** and submitted to the Volkswagen Foundation electronically via the online application system:

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

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 (**max. 1 page**), clearly indicating the proposed host institution,
- Summary of the research project (max. 2,100 characters including spaces),
- Research proposal, including
  - description of the research topic,
  - list of referenced literature,
  - relation to previous research,
  - importance for the intended career,
  - expectations with respect to the stay at the selected university/institution and benefits of the stay,

- a topic for a course to be offered and provided at the host faculty (undergraduate/graduate students), including a preliminary course syllabus, if applying to an institution where teaching is possible.

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; honoraria for invited guests cannot be covered),
  - 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 and other benefits 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 (PhD),
- 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).