

**Information for
Applicants 97**

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

Next Deadline: September 11th, 2018

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I. Objectives

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 **currently 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**. 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 international environment,
- take advantage of interdisciplinary scholarly discussion and build research networks,
- use local libraries, archives, and other facilities, and attend international conferences, symposia, etc.,
- gain experiences in a non-American university system by teaching courses, depending on the opportunities offered by the respective host institution.

II. Funding Opportunities

Eligibility and Finances

This call addresses promising scholars from the Humanities in their postdoctoral research phase **currently based at academic institutions in the U.S.** Scholars who work in an interdisciplinary field are especially encouraged to apply, if their project has a clear humanistic focus. To be eligible, applicants should have finished their PhD after October 1st, 2013. As this call addresses postdoctoral candidates, the PhD must be completed by the time of application (i.e. by September 11th, 2018). 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 the academic year 2019/2020. 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 stipend (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 a rent subsidy (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 as well as a total sum of 10,000 Euros for a workshop to be organized by the fellow. These workshop funds cannot be used to cover honoraria for invited guests. Please also note that the 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 "additional information", p. 8). Any such items must be included in the proposed 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.

III. General Conditions

Choosing a Host Institution

As noted, candidates can either choose a host institution independently 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 its support of the application and its willingness to host the fellow (see “additional information”, p. 8). Please note that choosing an institution different from those cooperating with the Foundations has no effect on the prospects for success.

The following institutions 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.

Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS)

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. The aim of FRIAS is to support academic exchange across existing boundaries: between disciplines, cultures and countries, or 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 contacts at FRIAS: 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

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

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 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. Each research group consists of a mix of Senior, Mid-Career, and Early Career Fellows (ECF), Göttingen Faculty, and Ph.D. students.

Your contacts at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg: Prof. Dr. Martin van Gelderen, Dr. Kora Baumbach and Dr. Dominik Hünniger, e-mail: Lichtenbergkolleg@zvw.uni-goettingen.de

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. External fellows also have close working relations with scholars at Konstanz University.

Your contact at the Center of Excellence/Institute for Advanced Study: Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schlögl, e-mail: Rudolf.Schloegl@uni-konstanz.de; Dr. Svenia Schneider-Wulf, Academic Coordination, e-mail: svenia.schneider@uni-konstanz.de.

Your contact at the Zukunftskolleg: Prof. Dr. Giovanni Galizia, e-mail: Giovanni.Galizia@uni-konstanz.de

Freie Universität Berlin, Dahlem Humanities Center

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) with a mission of detecting and promoting new trends in the humanities and creating interdisciplinary networks. 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. Applicants are encouraged to suggest potential academic contacts/mentors for the time of their fellowship.

Your contacts at the Dahlem Humanities Center: Prof. Dr. Paul Nolte, Director, e-mail: paul.nolte@fu-berlin.de and Katja Heinrich, Academic Coordinator, e-mail: k.heinrich@fu-berlin.de

Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO)

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, Eurasia, 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: 1) Progress: Ideas, Agents, Symbols; 2) The Politics of Resources; 3) Trajectories of Lives and Knowledge; 4) Cities as Laboratories of Change. More information on these research areas are available from the ZMO website. Visiting fellows are invited to join at least one of the four groups.

Your contact at the ZMO: Dr. Stefan B. Kirmse, e-mail: stefan.kirmse@zmo.de

German Archaeological Institute (DAI)

The German Archaeological Institute (DAI) is the largest institution in the field of international archaeological research in Germany. Projects conducted at 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) provide excellent libraries and research environments. The DAI places great value on international cooperation and interdisciplinary exchange. Research guests are also welcome to communicate with DAI departments abroad (Rome, Athens, Madrid, Istanbul, and Cairo).

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

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

The Staatliche Museen zu Berlin is a Universal Museum for the preservation, research, and mediation of treasures of art and culture. Its collections embrace European and non-European art, archaeology, and ethnology. The institution 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 at the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin: Dr. Jörg Völlnagel, e-mail: forschung@smb.spk-berlin.de

German National Library

The German National Library in Frankfurt and Leipzig is entrusted with the task of collecting, archiving, bibliographically classifying, and making available 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. In addition, the Library has unique holdings on the topics of exile and 5,000 years of media history.

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

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 at the Herzog August Bibliothek: Prof. Dr. Peter Burschel, Director, e-mail: forschung@hab.de

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. The campus offers a unique combina-

tion 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 at the German Literature Archive: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Raulff, e-mail: stipendien@dla-marbach.de

Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG)

The Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG) in Mainz is an international research institute studying the historical foundations of Europe in the modern age. Scholars at all levels and from different disciplines enquire into the addressing and dealing with difference: how difference is enabled, established and coped with in its religious, cultural, political and social dimensions. With this research programme and a vivid fellowship programme for PhD researchers, postdocs, and senior research fellows the IEG offers a stimulating interdisciplinary and international research environment. During research stays in Mainz, the Institute provides, if applicable, accommodation in the city centre.

Your contact at the Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG) in Mainz: Barbara Müller, M. A., e-mail: mueller@ieg-mainz.de

Leopoldina Centre for Science Studies

The German National Academy's Research Centre, established in October 2012, aims to design and conduct 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 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 at the Leopoldina Centre for Science Studies in Halle (Saale): Prof. Dr. Rainer Godel, e-mail: rainer.godel@leopoldina.org

Universität Münster, Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics"

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 investigates 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. 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 at the Cluster of Excellence: Dr. Iris Fleßenkämper, Executive Coordinator, e-mail: irisfle@uni-muenster.de

Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS)

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. It creates a space for scientific exchange and dialogue as well as a tight connection between research and teaching. It provides a research environment that fits the particular conditions of transcultural research crossing linguistic, source, media, and political borders. The HCTS builds on the structures established by the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context: The Dynamics of Transculturality".

Your contacts at the HCTS: Prof. Dr. Barbara Mittler, Director, e-mail: barbara.mittler@zo.uni-heidelberg.de and Dr. Oliver Lamers, Scientific Project Manager, e-mail: lamers@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de

IV. Application and Selection Procedure

The deadline for applications is **September 11th, 2018**. Applications must be written in English and submitted to the Volkswagen Foundation electronically via the online application system (see "additional information", p. 8). 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.

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 to generate a shortlist of candidates, 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 March 2019.

V. Application Checklist

Please make sure that your application includes the following documents:

- Uploaded signature sheet (generated as part of the online application),
- Cover letter (max. 1 page), clearly indicating the proposed host institution,
- Summary of the research project (2,100 characters including spaces),
- Research proposal (**limited to 10 pages**; arial, 12, 1.5 spaced, max. 17,000 characters excluding spaces), which includes the following:
 - description of the research topic (incl. theory, methodology, methods, etc...),

- list of referenced literature,
- relation to previous research,
- importance for intended career,
- expectations with respect to the stay at the proposed host institution and benefits of the stay,
- a preliminary workshop topic/description,
- a topic for a course to be offered to undergraduate/graduate students, including a preliminary course syllabus, if applying to an institution where teaching is possible.
- **Budget** (in Euros) as follows:
 - personnel expenditure (stipend of 2,100 Euros per month),
 - travel expenses for two return flights U.S.-Germany-U.S., conference participation in Europe, international health insurance (based on the information provided by the DAAD “tariff 790/D”), rent subsidy (1,000 Euros per month), visa,
 - workshop funds (10,000 Euros),
 - recurring non-personnel expenses (administrative expenses for the host institution of 3,000 Euros; 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.
- Budget justification (a brief explanation of the budget, max. 1 page),
- Curriculum vitae, including a list of publications (max. 4 pages),
- Copy of the PhD certificate,
- One short publication of interest (article-length),
- Letter of confirmation that leave of absence will be granted by the home university/institution in the U.S. (see “additional information”, p. 8), if applicable,
- Letter of confirmation to support the candidate’s application by the potential host institution (only applicable if not listed as a partner institute, see “additional information”, p. 8).

Please also read the “frequently asked questions” related to this the call thoroughly.

Information

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Additional Information

- [Webpage of the Funding Initiative](#)
- [Call – Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Letter of Confirmation \(Home Institution\)](#)
- [Letter of Confirmation \(Host Institution\)](#)
- [Family-Related Benefits](#)
- [Electronic Application System](#)