Funding Initiative

Post-doctoral Fellowships in the Humanities at Universities and Research Institutes in Germany and the U.S.

Call for Post-doctoral Fellowships in the Humanities at Universities and Research Institutes in the U.S.

1. Introduction

The post-doctoral fellowships at U.S. universities are provided by the Volkswagen Foundation in close cooperation with the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University, Washington University in St. Louis, The Getty Research Institute, the Transatlantic Academy, Georgetown University together with the German Historical Institute Washington DC (as co-host), the Max Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies at USC, and the Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry at Emory University. In this funding initiative the Volkswagen Foundation will also partner with The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation which will fund a number of American post-docs in the humanities spending a year at academic institutions in Germany (see Information for Applicants 97).

The fellowships are granted for 9 - 12 months and aim at supporting post-doctoral studies at the above-mentioned universities and institutes as well as at universities or research institutes of the candidate's choice. In selected cases Canadian universities or research institutes can also be chosen. Scholars shall be given the chance to

- pursue a specific research topic in the humanities in an attractive international environment,
- organize a workshop and participate in ongoing seminars in order to establish contacts with colleagues in the U.S.,
- take advantage of rich interdisciplinary scholarly discussions and research networks,
- use the local libraries, archives, and other facilities, and to attend international conferences, symposia etc.,
- get access to a non-German university system by teaching courses to undergraduate and graduate students, depending on the needs of the relevant academic departments.
The respective target group are promising young scholars in their post-doctoral research phase based at German institutions who want to strengthen their research capacity in a specific field of the humanities which can be expected to have a strong impact on their individual research profile and expertise. Scholars who work in an interdisciplinary field are especially encouraged to apply. The applicants should have finished their Ph.D. between one and no more than five years ago at the time of submission. Candidates who apply for a fellowship at an institution not listed above will have to provide a letter by the institution of their choice stating that it will support the candidate’s application and host the person during the respective academy year. Chances to succeed are the same as for applicants choosing institutions listed in the call.

The grants will be awarded for 9 - 12 months and cover a monthly salary as paid by German universities (Arbeitgeberbrutto approx. 60,000 Euros) or a post-doctoral fellowship (2,100 Euros per month) plus international health insurance, visa, travel expenses/rent of up to max. 1,000 Euros (including one additional flight to Germany, conference participation in North America), and a workshop (10,000 Euros). Small equipment, consumables, literature, etc. can also be applied for. Please indicate in your application if you would like to apply for subsidies for children according to the information on family-related benefits of the Foundation (see www.volkswagenstiftung.de -> funding -> family and career). Furthermore, please note that expenses for child care cannot be used for other cost budget items. If you apply for subsidies for children, the overall budget sum can be exceeded. The final sum granted will gradually differ depending on the living costs at the locality selected (see below). On additional request, small amounts can also be made available for follow-up activities such as visits of researchers from the host university/institution to the German institution to which the candidate returns and – at a later stage – for joint projects (for which funds will have to be applied for separately).

The universities/institutes will support the fellows to arrange the necessary contacts at the university and its faculties or the institute respectively. Each year the scholars at some of the institutions mentioned above are invited to work on projects related to an annual theme. Proposals should but do not have to be linked to the proposed thematic scope.

Up to 12 fellowships per year can be funded. Grants will be made to the German institution that employs the respective candidate.

The selection of the candidates will be jointly organized by the Volkswagen Foundation and the host universities/institutes in a two-step procedure. After a pre-selection of the proposals received there will be a second round, including personal presentations and interviews of shortlisted candidates. For that purpose a review panel will be established, nominated by the Volkswagen Foundation and some of the host universities/institutes.
2. Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University

The Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University intends to give young German scholars the opportunity to take advantage of its libraries, archives, and other facilities, thereby providing opportunities for research and interdisciplinary exchange. Fellows will be able to strengthen their research knowledge and profile in a specific field of the humanities in an international perspective. The Center supports projects that share its commitment to interdisciplinarity and internationality and expects its fellows to participate in its various activities and programs. Applications from all fields within the humanities and the allied social sciences are welcome, but the Center especially encourages applications from advanced post-docs in any field whose work addresses the broad theme of “violence and non-violence.”

The fellowships granted for 9 - 12 months (starting in September) aim at supporting post-doctoral studies at the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University. The scheduled budget can include items which add up to 100,000 Euros (or in case of a fellowship the budget depends on the duration of the stay: 2,100 Euros/month plus 40,000 Euros for recurring non-personnel and non-recurring costs). Final sums will be granted according to the budget items included in the application provided that they comply with the guidelines.

3. Washington University in St. Louis

The University’s research thrives on a rich history of success, deep support from many sources, well-established collaborations with industry, academic colleagues, and – most important – an engaged faculty, students and staff who work interdisciplinarily. The University encompasses more than 90 programs and 1,500 courses in order to develop scholars intellectually, personally and professionally and is one of the 15 best universities in the U.S. as well as the number 30 in the International Shanghai Ranking. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences involved in the program welcomes interdisciplinary proposals from a wide range of the humanities and from Anthropology. Washington University was founded in 1853 by William G. Eliot, the grandfather of T.S. Eliot. St. Louis, one of the culturally rich American cities, is located close to the geographic center of the United States at the confluence of the Mississippi and the Missouri.

The fellowships granted for 9 - 12 months (starting in mid-August) aim at supporting post-doctoral studies at Washington University. The scheduled budget can include items which add up to 90,000 Euros (or in case of a fellowship the budget depends on the duration of the stay: 2,100 Euros/month plus 30,000 Euros for recurring non-personnel and non-recurring costs). Final sums will be granted according to the budget items included in the application provided that they comply with the guidelines.
4. The Getty Research Institute

The Getty Research Institute dedicates itself to further knowledge and to advance the understanding of the visual arts. Its research library with special collections of rare materials and digital resources serves an international community of scholars and the interested public. The residential scholars program seeks to "integrate the often isolated territory of art history into the wider sphere of the humanities".

The fellowships granted for 9 months (starting in September) aim at supporting post-doctoral studies at The Getty Research Institute. The scheduled budget can include items which add up to 80,000 Euros (or in case of a fellowship 18,900 Euros plus 20,000 Euros for recurring non-personnel and non-recurring costs). Board and lodging will be provided by the host institution. Final sums will be granted according to the budget items included in the application provided that they comply with the guidelines. Applications must be linked to the annual scholar year theme.

The annual theme 2015/2016 for the Getty Research Institute will be announced shortly. Further details may be found on the Getty Research Institute website (http://www.getty.edu/research/scholars/).

5. Transatlantic Academy

The Transatlantic Academy was established in 2007 to bring together renowned senior scholars with promising junior fellows from Europe and North America to Washington, D.C., in order to work on a single theme during its academic year. The Academy provides an intellectual and logistic center for in-depth debates and research on contemporary political, economic, and social issues. This approach is an innovative and powerful means of bringing leading minds from academia and think tanks together to examine the nature and implications of major trends and challenges to the transatlantic community.

The fellowships granted for 9 months (starting in September) aim at supporting post-doctoral studies at the Transatlantic Academy. In this case the candidate should apply for his or her position (Arbeitgeberbrutto or the post-doctoral fellowship) and include items such as insurance and rent into the budget. The scheduled budget can include items which add up to 65,000 Euros (or in case of a fellowship 18,900 Euros plus 20,000 Euros for recurring non-personnel and non-recurring costs). Final sums will be granted according to the budget items included in the application provided that they comply with the guidelines. Expenses for travel, etc., will be directly covered by the Volkswagen Foundation through the Transatlantic Academy.

The Transatlantic Academy is entertaining proposals dealing with major transatlantic policy challenges.
6. Georgetown University Department of History / German Historical Institute Washington DC

Georgetown University in Washington DC is one of the world’s leading academic and research universities and part of the unique institutional landscape of Washington, DC. Fellows’ primary home will be the Georgetown Department of History, but they will also be affiliated with the German Historical Institute. The German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington DC is an internationally recognized center for advanced study. While the Institute is particularly dedicated to fostering the study of German history in North America and of American history in Germany, it also encompasses comparative, international and global history. Fellows can participate actively in the intellectual life of the GHI, use the library and the institute’s wide-ranging networks, as well as join in the GHI’s conferences and in the research seminar. Applications from historians with expertise in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century European history are particularly welcome.

The fellowships granted for 9 - 12 months can include items which add up to 100,000 Euros (or in case of a fellowship the budget depends on the duration of the stay: 2,100 Euros/month plus 40,000 Euros for recurring non-personnel and non-recurring costs). Final sums will be granted according to the budget items included in the application provided that they comply with the guidelines.

Questions about the Georgetown Department of History and about the GHI should be directed to Anna von der Goltz (af778[at]georgetown.edu).

7. Max Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies at USC

Founded in 1975, USC’s Max-Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies has traditionally focused on documenting the history and experiences of German-speaking exiles in Southern California; other areas of emphasis include: Cold War studies, German-Jewish relations and German/Central European aesthetics, history and film.

The institute, which houses USC’s German language instructors, possesses its own library and exile studies archive. It works closely with other institutions on the USC campus, including the Feuchtwanger Memorial Library, with its extraordinary collection of materials on German-speaking exiles, the Shoah Foundation Institute, and the Center for Advanced Genocide Studies. It actively collaborates with local museums and educational institutions on scholarly and public programs.

The fellowships granted for 9 -12 months aim at supporting post-doctoral studies at the Max Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies. The scheduled budget can include items which add up to 100,000 Euros (or in case of a fellowship the budget depends on the duration of the stay: 2,100 Euros/month plus 40,000 Euros for recurring non-personnel and non-
recurring costs). Final sums will be granted according to the budget items included in the application provided that they comply with the guidelines.

8. Emory University’s Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry

The Center capitalizes on Emory’s thriving humanities programs and longstanding institutional commitments to interdisciplinary research and teaching. With a cohort of Fellows drawn from across all academic levels, along with an emphasis on a broad conception of the humanities as a whole as well as specialized research in the humanities and associated social sciences, the Center stands for the central role of humanistic endeavor in the life of Emory University and beyond. We provide post-doctoral fellows with the necessary time and space to further their studies, and facilitate their engagement with Emory’s libraries, museum, and other resources. While the focus is on supporting the fellows’ individual research and writing, the Center’s programs seek to link Emory’s humanities activities to the diverse opportunities offered by the vibrant city of Atlanta.

The fellowships granted for 9 - 12 months (starting in mid-August) aims at supporting post-doctoral studies at Emory’s Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry. The scheduled budget can include items which add up to 100,000 Euros (or in case of a fellowship the budget depends on the duration of the stay: 2,100 Euros/months plus 40,000 Euros for recurring non-personnel and non-recurring costs). Final sums will be granted according to the budget items included in the application provided that they comply with the guidelines.

Questions about the Emory’s Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry should be directed to Astrid M. Eckert (aeckert@emory.edu).

9. Other Institutions

Proposed host institutions not listed above must be renowned universities or research institutions.

The fellowships granted for 9 - 12 months aim at supporting post-doctoral studies at the institutions. The scheduled budget can include items which add up to 80,000 - 100,000 Euros (depending on the chosen locality). In case of a fellowship instead of a post the budget depends on the duration of the stay: 2,100 Euros/month plus 20,000 - 40,000 Euros for recurring non-personnel and non-recurring costs. Final sums will be granted according to the budget items included in the application provided that they comply with the guidelines.
10. How to Apply and Checklist

Applications must be written in **English** and submitted to the Volkswagen Foundation electronically via the application system:

https://portal.volkswagenstiftung.de/vwsantrag/login.do

The signed scan of the cover sheet has to be uploaded via the electronic application system of the Volkswagen Foundation. The **deadline is October 2, 2014**. The personal presentations of shortlisted candidates are scheduled for February 2015.

The Volkswagen Foundation must be informed if the candidate has a pending application or plans to apply for a fellowship provided by another institution. The Volkswagen Foundation can award grants to academic institutions only. Applications outside of universities and well-known publicly-maintained research institutions are asked to provide details on the legal status, statutes, trustees and boards, charitable/non-profit status, budgeting and auditing of the institution to be funded. Please include an annual report of the applying institution.

**Please make sure that your application includes the following documents:**

- Signed scan of the cover sheet has to be uploaded via the electronic application system of the Volkswagen Foundation,
- Cover Letter (in English),
- Research Proposal (in English)
  - Outline and substantiation of the research topic to be pursued, its relation to previous research, its importance for the intended career, and the expectations with respect to the stay at the universities/institutions including a list of references.
  - One topic for a course to be offered and realized at the hosting faculty (undergraduate/graduate students) including a preliminary course syllabus.

Please note that research proposals of more than 10 pages (arial, 12, 1.5 spaced, max. 17,000 characters excluding spaces) are not accepted.

- Budget (in Euro) as follows:
  - Personnel expenditure up to 60,000 Euros (salary) for 12 months / 45,000 Euros for 9 months or 2,100 Euros per month (post-doctoral fellowship), Travel expenses (travel from Germany and back, one extra flight, conference participation in North America, international health insurance, rent and accommodation costs, workshop, visa),
  - Recurring non-personnel expenses (e.g. consumables),
  - Non-recurrent expenses (e.g. literature, small equipment).
• Budget justification (max. one page),
• Subsidies for children according to the information on family-related benefits of the Foundation, if applicable,
• German and English summary of proposal (max. one page each),
• Curriculum vitae (in English, max. 2 pages),
• Bibliography (self-written/involved, max. 2 pages),
• Copies of university certificates (M.A. and Ph.D.),
• One short publication of interest (max. 20 pages),
• Letter of Confirmation to administer the funds and to grant leave of absence by the German University/Institution (see form),
• Letter of Confirmation to support the candidate’s application by the potential host institution only if not listed in the call (see form).