

Information 91 for Applicants

Funding Initiative

Annual Fellowships for Post-doctoral Research in the Humanities at The Humanities Center of Harvard University

Deadline

November 1

Contact

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Information on
**The Humanities Center of
Harvard University**
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~humcentr>

1. The Program

The fellowship program is jointly being run by the Volkswagen Foundation and the Humanities Center at Harvard University for a pilot phase of four years. It started with a first application round in November 2007.

The **fellowships**, granted for 12 months, aim at supporting post-doctoral studies in the humanities at Harvard University. 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 Humanities Center seminars in order to establish contacts with colleagues from the wider Boston area
- take advantage of rich interdisciplinary scholarly discussion and research networks
- use the local libraries, archives, and other facilities, and attend international conferences, symposia etc.
- get access to a non-German university system by teaching courses to undergraduate and graduate students.

The **target group** are promising young scholars in their post-doctoral research phase based on German institutions who want to strengthen their research knowledge and 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 whose work has an interdisciplinary emphasis are especially encouraged to apply. Ideally, the applicants should have finished their Ph.D. two or three years before. For very innovative research agendas or because of family commitment, applications may be submitted even at a later stage; however, not later than 5 years after the applicant's Ph.D..

The **grants** will be awarded for 12 months (starting in September) and cover a monthly salary plus health insurance, travel expenses (including one additional return to home country, conference participation, workshop at the beginning of the stay) and subsidies for accompanying partners and children (all in all up to 100,000 Euros). On additional request, some money can also be made available for follow-up activities such as visits of Harvard researchers 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 Humanities Center will support the fellows in arranging the necessary contacts at Harvard University and its faculties and will do its best to make their stay as fruitful and sustainable as possible.

Up to four fellowships per year can be funded. Grants will be made to the German institution at which the respective candidate works.

The **selection of the candidates** will be jointly organized by the Volkswagen Foundation and the Humanities Center 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 selection committee will be established, nominated in equal parts by the Volkswagen Foundation and the Humanities Center.

2. How to Apply

Application form

Applications prepared according to the application form (available at the download centre of the Volkswagen Foundation's homepage) should be submitted as hardcopy as well as in electronic format (application and each appendix as **separate** pdf-files) to the Foundation's office.

Applications are to be written in **English** and submitted to the **Volkswagen Foundation** electronically and as a hard copy. Both versions must be completely identical and should contain the information and documents (as pdf files) listed in the checklist at the end of the application form. Please do not use plastic envelopes or folders (Bewerbungsmappen).

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. Applicants 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.

The annual **deadline** is **November 1**. The **personal presentations** of shortlisted candidates and the final decision of the selection committee are scheduled for the following **March**.