



Information for Applicants 96

Call for Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities at Universities and Research Institutes in the U.S. and Canada

Next Deadline: September 4th, 2018

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I. Objectives

The Volkswagen Foundation offers postdoctoral fellowships in the Humanities to enable postdoctoral fellows currently based in Germany to conduct studies at institutions in the U.S. and Canada. Applicants can either select an institution of their own choice for their fellowship or, alternatively, apply to one of the cooperating institutions in the U.S. and Canada (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 discussions and build research networks,
- use the local libraries, archives, and other facilities, and attend international conferences, symposia, etc.,
- gain experiences in a non-Germany university system by teaching courses, depending on the opportunities offered by the relevant 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 Germany** (via employment). 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 4th, 2018). Please also note that, to be eligible under this scheme, **candidates must have been based in Germany for at least two years directly prior to the application**.

The **grants** will usually 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.

To be eligible to apply, applicants **must be employed by a German institution**, which will grant them leave of absence for the duration of the fellowship. This employment must also cover the duration of the time abroad. The grant will be made to this German institution, which is then also responsible for administering the funds. Before an application is submitted, candidates should discuss the administrative details with their home institution (in particular the financial administration and the continuation of the payment of salaries).

Grants cover a monthly salary as paid by German universities at the time of application ("Arbeitgeberbrutto", approx. 68,400 Euros; please consult with your university administration prior to application and apply for the amount relevant to your employment) or a postdoctoral stipend ("Stipendium", 2,100 Euros per month) plus international health insurance, visa, travel expenses (two return flights Germany-U.S.-Germany), conference participation (preferably) in North America, and a rent subsidy (1,000 Euros per month). Fellows can also apply for funds for 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 Euros for a fellowship of 12 months). In addition, the Foundation provides 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 these fellowships do not cover the 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. 6). 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.

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. 6). Please note that choosing an institution different from those cooperating with the Foundation 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.

Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University

The Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University offers postdoctoral fellows the opportunity to take advantage of Harvard’s libraries, archives, and other facilities and to participate in the Center’s vibrant interdisciplinary community. Applications from all fields within the humanities and the allied social sciences are welcome, but the Center especially encourages applications from advanced postdocs in any field whose work addresses the broad theme of “migration and the humanities.”

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 33 best universities in the U.S. as well as the number 20 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 History, Political Science, International Studies, Archaeology as well as Anthropology. The university runs an active and innovative Humanities Center. 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 Getty Research Institute

The Getty Research Institute is dedicated to furthering knowledge and to advancing 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 are granted for 9 months (starting in September) and support resi-

idential postdoctoral studies at the Getty Research Institute. Scholar housing is provided by the host institution. Therefore, the amount of the fellowship will be reduced accordingly (budgets must not include rent). Applications must be linked to the annual scholar research theme. The theme for the 2019-2020 scholar year at the Getty Research Institute will be announced shortly. Further details regarding the scholars program can be found on the Getty Research Institute website at: (<http://www.getty.edu/research/scholars/>).

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 and American history, it also encompasses comparative, international and global history. Fellows are invited to 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. Questions about the Georgetown Department of History should be directed to the Department Chair Prof. Bryan McCann (bm85@georgetown.edu) or Prof. Anna von der Goltz (af778@georgetown.edu). Questions about the GHI should be addressed to Bryan Hart (hart@ghi-dc.org).

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 and several visiting scholars, 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 Center for Advanced Genocide Research at the USC Shoah Foundation, and USC's Casden Institute. It actively collaborates with local museums and educational institutions on scholarly and public programs.

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

IV. Application and Selection Procedure

The deadline for applications is **September 4th, 2018**. Applications must be written in English and submitted to the Volkswagen Foundation electronically via the online application system (see “additional information”, p. 6). 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 from 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 organized in a two-stage procedure, in cooperation with the above-mentioned institutes. In the first step, all proposals submitted to the 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 at the Volkswagen Foundation’s premises in Hanover. This forms the second step of the selection process and the basis for final decisions on the applications. The personal presentations of shortlisted candidates are scheduled for the end of February 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,
- German and English summary of the research project (2,100 characters including spaces each),
- 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 (either a salary of around 68,400 Euros (TVL 13) for up to 12 months or a fellowship/stipend of 2,100 Euros per month),
 - travel expenses for two return flights Germany-U.S.-Germany, conference participation in North America, international health insurance (based on the information provided by the DAAD “tariff 751/A”), rent subsidy (1,000 Euros per month), 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 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 to administer the funds and to grant leave of absence by the home university/institution in Germany (see “additional information”, p. 6),
- 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. 6).

As far as the personnel expenditure is concerned, we strongly advise you to consult with your university administration first to include the correct amount. 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 \(Host Institution\)](#)
- [Famliy-Related Benefits](#)
- [Electronic Application System](#)