

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 the U.S. and Canada

Deadline

September 5, 2017

Contact

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1. Introduction

The Volkswagen Foundation offers postdoctoral fellowships in the humanities to enable postdoctoral fellows 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**, 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 discussions and research networks,
- use the local libraries, archives, and other facilities, and attend international conferences, symposia, etc.,
- gain experience in a non-German university system by teaching courses to undergraduate and graduate students, depending on the needs of the relevant academic departments.

2. Eligibility and Finances

This call addresses promising young scholars in their postdoctoral research phase currently **based at German institutions** (via employment), 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 1st, 2012.** As this call addresses postdoctoral candidates, the PhD must be completed by the time of application (i.e. by September 5th, 2017). 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 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 these cases, the respective program manager at the Volkswagen Foundation should be consulted first (see “contact”, p.1). 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. 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 fellowship (“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 rent/additional living costs (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. Please note that 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 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.

3. Choosing a Host Institution

As noted, candidates can either **independently choose a host institution in the U.S. or Canada** for their fellowship or select one of the cooperating institutes listed below. Proposed host institutions not listed here must be

renowned universities or research institutions. 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 Foundation has no effect on their prospects for success in this call.

Over the years, the Volkswagen Foundation has established **close cooperation with a number of universities and institutes in the U.S.** that 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.

Information on Partner Institution

Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University



<http://mahindrahumanities.fas.harvard.edu/>

1. 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 postdocs in any field whose work addresses the broad theme of "violence and non-violence."

Information on Partner Institution

Washington University



[www.artsci.wustl.edu;](http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/)
<http://sites.wustl.edu/vwpostdoc>

2. 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 History, Political Science, International Studies, Archaeology as well as 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.

Information on Partner Institution

The Getty Research Institute



<http://www.getty.edu/research/>

3. 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 residential 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 2018-2019 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/>).

Information on Partner Institution

Georgetown University



<http://georgetown.edu/>

German Historical Institute Washington DC



<http://www.ghi-dc.org/>

4. 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 Anna von der Goltz (af778@georgetown.edu). Questions about the GHI should be addressed to Bryan Hart (hart@ghi-dc.org).

Information on Partner Institution

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



<http://dornsife.usc.edu/max-kade/>

5. 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.

Information on Partner Institution

Emory University's Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry



<http://fchi.emory.edu/home/>

6. 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 Astrid M. Eckert (aeckert@emory.edu).

4. Selection Process

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. Based on these reviews, a shortlist of candidates is generated, 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 provisionally scheduled for the end of February 2018.

Electronic Application

Please use the Foundation's application system 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.

5. How to Apply and Checklist

The **deadline for applications is September 5, 2017**. Applications must be written in **English** and submitted to the Volkswagen Foundation electronically via the online application system:

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

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. Also, financial commitments entered into prior to receipt of a grant letter cannot be covered.

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,
- German and English summary of the research project (2,100 characters including spaces each),
- 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 Euro) as follows:
 - personnel expenditure around 68,400 Euros (TVL 13) (salary) for 12 months / or 2,100 Euros per month (fellowship/stipend) (if you apply for a salary, **we strongly advise you to consult with your university administration to include the correct amount**),
 - travel expenses (**two return flights** Germany-U.S.-Germany, conference participation in North America, international health insurance¹, rent and accommodation costs, visa),
 - workshop funds (10,000 Euros; cannot be used to cover honoraria for invited guests),
 - 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 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).

¹ based on the information provided by the DAAD (please see https://www.daad.de/medien/versicherung/ausland/merkblatt_tarif_751-a_2016.01.01_2015.10.14.pdf.)