Forum
Transregionale
Studien

Frequently Asked Questions

1. At the moment, I am in the final stage of my PhD process, but I already know for sure that my defense will not take place before March/April/May 2027. I wonder if the timeframe between the application in January and October (as starting point of the fellowship) is enough for your acceptance of my application, even though **I do not hold the degree** at the moment of application.

   → Our fellowships are addressed to applicants that should be at the postdoctoral level and should have submitted their dissertation before the application and hold their defense by July 31, 2027 to participate in the program from October 1, 2027 onwards. Please clearly demonstrate in your application that you will finish your PhD in time so that you could work on another project during the fellowship 2027/2028. Without an official documentation of the submission of the thesis and the successful defense of the PhD dissertation no stipend rate will be paid.

2. Are there any "**PhD fellowships**" offered in this program?

   → Our fellowships are addressed to applicants at a postdoctoral level who obtained their doctorate within the last seven years. Unfortunately, we do not offer fellowships for PhD students. PhD candidates who want to be affiliated with EUME can however apply for an affiliation with their own or third-party funding, and should contact EUME if that might be the case.

3. I am not yet qualified to apply for a fellowship and I was wondering if there will be any **post-doctoral vacancies in the future**?

   → We call for applications for post-doctoral fellowships every year. Some of the programs or research fields may change in the future, but we kindly ask you to check our annual calls for future fellowships. You can also follow us on our EUME Facebook page where we announce future calls and other activities of the program.

4. I am interested in applying for a fellowship but I completed my **PhD already in 2020**. Will that render me ineligible?

   → Our Call states that the PhD should be obtained no longer than 7 years ago; but it could also be 8 or 9. The specification in our call respective the time of doctorate is not the only factor in selecting potential candidates. Other factors will also be taken into consideration (e.g. parental leaves). Furthermore, the evaluation committee considers the differences of educational systems in different countries. The fellowship is oriented towards the claims and needs of postdocs. If that is fine for you, please feel free to apply for our fellowships.

5. Are there any **age limits** for applicants? My age is above 50.

   → There are no age limits, but the PhD should be obtained no longer than 7 years ago. It is not a question of age but rather of framework, conditions (such as the amount of the

stipend, the location of the workspace and so on), and over-qualification. It is certainly not a fellowship for distinguished Professors. You should decide on your own whether the conditions suit you and whether you want to apply.

6. Should I attach **samples of my scholarly work** or **recommendation letters** to my application?

   → There is no need to attach samples of your scholarly work or recommendation letters to your application.

7. I would like to know more about the **working conditions at your institute**.

   → The fellows are affiliated to different host institutions depending on their project and the research field. The main focus is on the development of your own research project, but you should also attend the seminars and events in relation to the project and your host institution. There is no teaching obligation, but you should hold a seminar in the context of the project.

8. Is it advisable (or strictly forbidden) to directly **contact the head of the research field** I am considering to apply for to see whether my theme is of interest to her/him before sending the application?

   → It should not be necessary to contact the director(s) of the research fields. The final choices are made by the committee as a whole and not within the research fields. The research fields mentioned in the Call for Applications are an open framework of interests persued by members of EUME. In case of uncertainties, you should better contact eume@trafo-berlin.de.

9. I read in your announcement that all application documents must be in English. Is it possible for your committee to accept **documents in other languages than English**?

   → The language of the program is English. So it should not be necessary to attach any of the requested documents in other languages than English.

10. Apart from the specified length of five pages for the project outline, are there any other **guidelines**?

    → For a list of all documents required for the application, please check the Call for Applications. We have no special guidelines for the project description, except that it should be no more than five pages long. You can choose the form in which you present your project yourself. In general, you should describe what you plan to work on in Berlin if granted a fellowship. You could relate it to previous works, including a brief bibliography or timetable etc.