Cluster of Excellence "The Politics of Inequality"

External Senior Fellowships

FAQ

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Residence

Fellows are expected to be present in Konstanz to actively participate in the Cluster’s activities and best benefit from the interdisciplinary exchange with the Cluster community.

Housing

The University of Konstanz offers a limited number of guest apartments, and the University's Welcome Centre assists non-national researchers in their search for accommodation. Please note that the housing market in Konstanz is very competitive and pricey.

For further information, please see: https://www.uni-konstanz.de/en/welcome-centre/

Formalities

The Welcome Center of the University of Konstanz assists international researchers in the planning and preparation of a research stay at the University of Konstanz. It offers individualized assistance in all non-academic, administrative, and socio-cultural matters. This includes, among other things:

- help with visa applications
- accompaniment to meetings with government authorities (registration, application for a residence permit)
- advice and support with other formalities such as health insurance, social security, additional insurance coverage, bank accounts, automobile registration
- support with issues related to the employment contract

For further information, please see: https://www.uni-konstanz.de/en/welcome-centre/

Childcare

The Equal Opportunity Office of the University of Konstanz provides support for incoming researchers with children. It assists with finding kindergartens and schools in Konstanz and includes information concerning child benefits.

For further information, please see the following:

https://www.uni-konstanz.de/en/welcome-centre/

https://www.uni-konstanz.de/en/equalopportunities/family/
CALL SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. Could you please indicate the payment rate for research assistants? What a typical student assistant or doctoral student would earn per hour?

Answer: Current Student Assistant hourly rates at the University of Konstanz since October 2022 are as follows:

Student Assistant in BA: 15,30 EUR / hour
Student Assistant with BA: 16,00 EUR / hour
Student Assistant with MA: 21,30 EUR / hour

2. Would it be, in principle, possible to split such a fellowship into two periods (say, one month in the fall of 2023 and 2 months in the spring/early summer of 2024)?

Answer: Fellowship is available for 2 to 6 months per selected Fellow during the academic year 2023/24. The earliest starting date is the 1st of September 2023, and the latest end date is the 30th of September 2024. Having this in mind, yes, splitting the Fellowship is possible.

3. I have a question regarding the application form, in particular "requested funding/research allowance". Can you explain what I should do in the column "requested funding/research allowance"?

Answer: In the application form, where the "Requested funding/research allowance" field is, you can enter the requested amount for your Fellowship, which you can calculate by using this formula: (number of months for which you applied for * 6000 EUR as a monthly flat rate). To that, you can add your own planned costs calculation for the costs you may need while doing the research during your Fellowship. For example, fees for student assistants, data collection, translation, coding, etc.

4. Does the proposal (4 pages) includes the references (or are references extra pages)? Is there any specific format you expect, or should I create a standard form of my own?

Answer: No, in 4 pages, the references are not included. You can write the references as extra pages. You can also design your proposal form, but you may find the form we provided with this Call beneficial.

5. Should the applications be in English or German?

Answer: The official language of the Call is English, and the applications should be in English.
6. Is the Call open for postdocs, or is it necessary to be already at the professors’ level?

Answer: The Call is open to researchers from outside the University of Konstanz with an established track record and international visibility, as well as a keen interest in the Cluster's concepts and lines of research. Also, the Cluster of Excellence “The Politics of Inequality” is looking for scholars with an established track record in inequality research broadly defined and in the fields directly related to the Cluster's research agenda, though not necessarily in disciplines already represented at the Cluster.

The Call does not specify that the applicant has to have a postdoc or already professorship. However, the emphasis during the evaluation will be on the established track record and international visibility. The conditions mentioned above thus need to be met, and the research proposal has to contribute to the research agenda of the Cluster, investigating core aspects of the political dimension of inequality. The program is not for Docs or Postdocs.

7. Do I have to include a photograph (Bewerbungsfoto)? I know this is 'expected' in many German businesses and Universities, so I want to clarify.

Answer: You can make your CV in a form you think is the best. We did not provide the form, so you can decide to put a photo or have the CV without the picture. CV does not have limited pages because only the research proposal has, so the choice is yours.

8. I am interested in the Fellowship but am not 100% sure about the eligibility criteria. I work at the university, and my contract ends next summer: Can I apply, or do I have to be still registered at another University after the Fellowship?

Answer: The Call is open to researchers from outside the University of Konstanz with an established track record and international visibility, as well as a keen interest in the Cluster's concepts and lines of research. The program is not for Docs or Postdocs.

9. Are empirical projects about other countries eligible?

Answer: Any inequality research with an empirical approach is eligible.

10. Will you consider proposals from a team of two researchers to come and work in Konstanz?

Answer: If it is a dual career application, you can submit two applications for two applicants for the same two-month stay in Konstanz. If you are two applicants with different disciplines researching inequality from their point of view, please submit two separate applications for the same two-month stay. If your situation is two researchers conducting inequality research for the same project, then please submit one joint application for the same two-month stay and, in this situation, two applicants are sharing the Fellowship and the accompanying fee and monthly research allowance.
11. I was wondering whether the list of publications should be: 1) complete (already included in my CV) or just a selection; 2) included in the main form or attached separately?

Answer: The list of publications can be at the end of your CV, and you do not need to submit an additional form. You can name the file CV and list of publications. If you want, you can select the publications supporting your application and add the selected list after the four pages of the project proposal and references.