

Cluster of Excellence “The Politics of Inequality”

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Application Process and Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

Who can apply?

The fellowship is open to eligible candidates from anywhere in the world, regardless of their nationality. The minimum requirement for application is a submitted doctoral thesis. Researches from Non-OECD member countries are explicitly encouraged to apply.

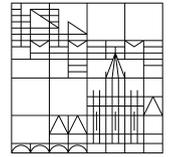
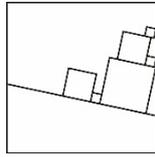
Academic background

The Cluster of Excellence “The Politics of Inequality” is a joint project of researchers from political science, sociology, economy, linguistics, psychology, law and education studies. We welcome applications from these and related disciplines with an interdisciplinary approach to the study of inequality. Applicants should have a keen interest in the Cluster’s concepts and lines of research. We are looking for open-minded candidates interested in interdisciplinary research with the ability to actively seek collaborations beyond their own discipline.

Application documents

To apply, the candidates must submit

- a proposal for a research project to be pursued during the fellowship. This proposal should not exceed four pages in length and should include information on
 - o the research question(s) and the methods
 - o potential fellow-ups of the project
 - o the feasibility and relevance of the project
 - o the project’s fit with the Cluster’s interests
- Curriculum Vitae and a list of publications
- certification of a completed doctoral degree or submitted thesis (the latter to be issued by the main doctoral supervisor)
- candidates must name two potential referees for the Cluster to contact



- the application may include a short letter of motivation detailing the reasons why becoming a Fellow of the Cluster would be especially helpful to the applicant's career and research, as well as to the Cluster.

How to apply?

Candidates are asked to complete the application form on our online application portal and to submit their application documents in the form of a single PDF via the portal.

Language

The main language of the Cluster is English, speaking German is no requirement for application.

Conditions of the Fellowship

Duration

Postdoctoral Fellowships are offered for a duration of 12 months. The earliest starting date is 1 October of each year. Given the limited number of fellowships, it is preferred that candidates start the fellowship in October. During the fellowship the fellows will pursue individual research projects.

Employment contract

Fellows will receive an employment contract with the University of Konstanz (pay scale TV-L E13, 100%). Within the pay scale TV-L E13 there are several levels and their attribution depends on previous work experience. Fellows hence have to demonstrate their work experience by means of official certificates to the Human Resources Department in order to determine the level that applies to them. The fellowship cannot be awarded as a scholarship.

Research allowance

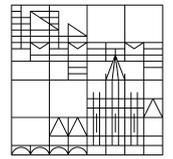
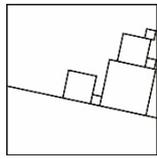
Fellows will receive a research allowance i.e. to finance conference travels and research assistants. Fellows will also benefit from the Clusters' Methods Hub and from the services of the University's Academic Staff Development Unit.

Residence

Fellows are expected to move to Konstanz in order to actively participate in the activities of the Cluster and to best benefit from the interdisciplinary exchange with the Cluster community.

Relocation Costs

The Cluster offers support with respect to the relocation costs of the Fellows and, if applicable, their family (some limitations apply).



Living and Working Conditions

Housing

The University of Konstanz offers a limited number of guest apartments and the University's Welcome Centre provides assistance to 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 regarding 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 *inter alia*

- 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 provides information with respect to child benefits.

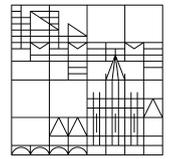
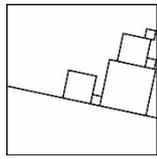
For further information, please see:

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

<https://www.uni-konstanz.de/en/equalopportunities/family/>

Selection Procedure

The Board of the Cluster is in charge of reviewing the applications and selecting the Fellows. The University of Konstanz is committed to equal opportunities, diversity, and a good work-life balance. As an equal opportunity employer, we strive to increase the number of women working in research and teaching. In addition, we explicitly encourage persons with disabilities to apply.



FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

Is the position open for fellows that do not speak German?

The main language of the Cluster is English, hence, speaking German is no requirement. We are welcoming applications from researchers from all over the world.

Can the project proposal be connected to an already existing project?

Project proposals that are connected to an already existing project are welcome.

Can the project proposal be handed in in German?

As the main language of the Cluster is English, the research proposal should be submitted in English.

What does “potential referees” imply?

Concerning potential referees, we do not ask for letters of recommendation. However, the name of two potential referees should be included for the Cluster to contact in order to learn more about the applicant’s research and academic background.

How much physical presence in Konstanz is required?

Fellows are expected to engage on a regular basis with scholars at the Cluster and participate in Cluster activities. The Cluster will provide a workspace in the Cluster building.

If I am not accepted, can it impose restrictions for an application next year?

There are no restrictions with respect to a renewed application in case of non-acceptance.