

# ifk Research & ifk Senior Fellowships

ifk Research Fellowships are designed to support post-doctoral scholars early in their careers. Applicants must have a Doctorate or a Ph.D. at the beginning of the fellowship. Qualified scholars are eligible without regard to nationality, institutional, or departmental affiliation; although preference is given to qualified Austrian applicants.

ifk Senior Fellowships are designed to support excellent scholars, who are well advanced in their academic careers (full professors or clearly established in their field). Qualified scholars are eligible without regard to nationality, institutional, or departmental affiliation; although preference is given to applicants of international repute who have published significant papers in recognized refereed journals and books that establish the author as a leading expert in his/her academic field.

## Duration and Funding

ifk Senior and Research Fellowships will be granted for one academic semester (1 October–31 January next year or 1 March–30 June). Fellowships entail a maximum monthly stipend of € 2.387 (€ 77 per day), office space at the ifk equipped with electronic facilities including internet access as well as one-time travel costs to and from Vienna and a rent allowance. It is necessary, in order to receive the scholarship, to maintain a regular presence at the ifk. Costs for health and social insurance are not covered by the ifk.

## General Criteria of Evaluation

A thematic link to the ifk's current research foci of »The Last Things Before the Last«, »Situated in the Global«, or »Different Work« is desired but not required for an application. For more details visit: [ifk.ac.at/research-focus.html](http://ifk.ac.at/research-focus.html)

The ifk will also accept independent projects within the realm of

humanities and social sciences unrelated to the present research focus. Applications will be peer-reviewed by the ifk's International Advisory Board. A final decision will be taken in regard to the requirements of the yearly scholarly program.

The Board looks for four essential features in Fellowship proposals:

1. A well-defined and innovative research question.
2. A clear definition of the uniqueness of the work and/or the significance of the research to important theoretical and methodological issues in interdisciplinary cultural studies and humanities.
3. A discussion of the work in the context of appropriate research done by international scholars.
4. Clear methodological provisions that guarantee an interdisciplinary research focus.

The ifk discourages proposals that are either exclusively theoretical or exclusively empirical in character. It supports projects that combine empirical investigation with thoughtful theoretical work.

Research proposals that present a clearly formulated problem, demonstrate familiarity with the scholarly field(s), and develop an interdisciplinary methodological framework stand the best chance of approval by the International Advisory Board.

Try to answer the following Guideline Questions while writing your proposal description:

- A. Describe your research question/hypothesis or research objective as precisely as possible. That is, what is the focus of your investigation? The formulation of a developed research question, hypothesis or research objective is an important characteristic of a successful proposal and should therefore be concisely done. Instead of presenting a vast research topic, applicants should develop answerable questions in the context of a larger research topic.

- B. How does your research build upon and go beyond existing scholarship in your field? The applicant should clearly demonstrate an excellent knowledge of the literature relevant to the topic of research and should indicate how the proposed research might advance previous work in the field.
- C. How – if at all – does your research proposal relate to the present ifk Research Foci? Answering this question is compulsory for those applicants who do not submit “free projects” but research proposals within the research foci of the ifk.
- D. Which work program (methodology) is to be applied and which evidence will be assembled in order to answer your research question? Applicants are strongly advised to explicitly demonstrate that the methodological procedures proposed and the evidence collected will realistically support the research objectives expressed in question A).
- E. The goal of the ifk is to support original and innovative research in interdisciplinary cultural studies and humanities. Please describe the interdisciplinary dimension of your research project. Applicants should emphasize the contribution of the proposed research not only to the specific area of research being addressed, but also to the broader spectrum of interdisciplinary cultural studies and humanities. Therefore, it is important to precisely formulate the interdisciplinarity dimension of the research project.

### **Application Process**

In order to apply, you must fill in the online application form and upload ONE merged PDF containing all application documents with your name as the file name: lastname\_firstname.pdf

Documents required

1. A cover sheet with your academic title, name and institution
2. A short abstract of your project,  
max. 1,000 characters (including blanks)
3. The research proposal (excluding bibliography),  
max. 1,200 words (including footnotes)
4. Core bibliography relevant to your research project (1 page maximum)

## 5. Academic curriculum vitae/list of publications (5 pages maximum)

In addition to the PDF, some information such as address, e-mail, nationality, date of birth, language skills, etc. will be requested.

This information will only be used for internal evaluation.

### Notes

- Please hold your documents ready for the upload as there is no option to save the application.
- The application process will take place only online.
- Applications may be submitted either in German or English.
- The maximum filesize for the merged PDF is 10 Megabytes
- Legible, concise, well-organized materials are very much appreciated. The ifk reserves the right to return applications unread that are incomplete, not clearly typed, exceed the prescribed length or do not follow the guidelines.

### Deadline

The online platform for applications will be open from May until July.

If you have any remaining questions, please contact us by e-mail: [fellows@ifk.ac.at](mailto:fellows@ifk.ac.at) or by telephone: +43 1 504 11 26 2629

We are looking forward to your application!