Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship for Visiting Post-Doctoral Fellows
Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies,
Harvard University

2027 - 2028

Purpose

The John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship, based at Harvard University's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (CES), was endowed in 1967 by the German Federal Government. Fellowships are granted each year for residential research between September and June (10 months).

Since its establishment, the John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship has been awarded on a competitive basis to post-doctoral German scholars who are in the process of writing the Habilitation or an equivalent research work in the Social Sciences. Applicants should indicate their preference of Harvard University for their research projects. Fellows are expected to be in residence at CES for 10 months, participate in the activities and programs of CES, and to interact with faculty, fellows, graduate students, and staff. Applicants should be working on topics focusing on Europe, transatlantic issues and/or the United States.

The application opens on **Saturday, August 1, 2026 and the deadline to apply is Friday, Oktober 30, 2025 at 11:59 PM.**

Please consult https://ces.fas.harvard.edu/ for more information on the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies.

Please consult https://ces.fas.harvard.edu/opportunities/fellows/john-f-kennedy-memorial-fellowships-ces-harvard/kennedy-fellowship-german-scholars for information on the John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship program.

Eligibility Requirements

- German citizenship
- Applicants must have completed all requirements for the doctorate and be in possession of the degree at the time of application
- Applicants must have completed their doctorate no more than 8 years prior to the application and may not hold a full professorship (W3 in the German case)
- Graduate of a German university (or a diploma equivalent to finishing a German university)
- English fluency
- Preference is given to applicants who intend to have academic careers in Germany

Fields of Research

- Political Science
- Contemporary History
- Sociology
- Political Economy
- Economics
- Anthropology
- Other Social Sciences

**Duration of Fellowship Program

The mandatory 10-month-in-residence fellowship period is September 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028.

**Fellowship Amount and Additional Compensation

- The Fellowship stipend is $70,000 for 10 months.
- Additionally, the fellowship provides $5,000 for each accompanying child (up to 3 children) for the entire duration of the program. For each child aged 5 and under, an additional $1,500/month will be given for childcare expenses. Fellows must submit daycare provider receipts before payments are made.
- The stipend is disbursed in bi-weekly payments over the ten-month period. An extension to stay at the Center for up to two months is possible, but additional payments will not be provided. Fellowships are not extended to candidates who are unable to be in residence for at least ten months.
- Up to $1,500 for travel costs related to research or participation in conferences
- Roundtrip travel costs for the fellowship recipient and accompanying family members up to a maximum amount (covered by DAAD)
- Health insurance, accident and liability insurance (covered by DAAD) for the fellowship recipient and family members
- Reimbursement for the fellowship recipient's partner or spouse for up to 4 courses for credit at the Harvard Extension School. The web address is: https://www.extension.harvard.edu.
- Through a partnership with the American Council on Germany (ACG), Kennedy Fellows may deliver public lectures at ACG chapters in cities across the United States. Associated expenses are covered by the ACG.
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**Additional Requirements, Privileges and Information

- Fellows will join the cohort of CES Visiting Scholars and are required to attend the New Research on Europe Seminar at the Center. At this weekly Seminar, Fellows are expected to provide feedback on works-in-progress by other visiting scholars as well as make one presentation on their research.
- Fellows should be actively engaged in the intellectual life of the Center and must be in residence throughout the entire duration of the program, from September through June of each academic year, without prolonged absences.
- Fellows will have a desk in a shared office at CES.
- Fellows may have use of a desktop computer in their CES office but are also encouraged to bring their own laptops.
- Fellows will have access to the Harvard University library system and resources.
- Fellows may audit lectures and seminars within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and other selected faculties within the university.
- Please note there are no special housing facilities for Kennedy Fellows.

Selection Process

DAAD will invite finalists for interviews with German Scholars and CES affiliates. Final award decisions will be made by CES.

Application Deadline and Process

Unless otherwise noted, **all application materials written by candidates MUST BE IN ENGLISH.**

Beginning on August 1, 2026, the application portal can be accessed on the DAAD website at:

https://www.daad.de/ausland/studieren/stipendium/de/70-stipendien-finden-und-bewerben/?status=2&target=44&subjectGrps=&daad=&q=&page=1&detail=50015244

The following application materials must be submitted to DAAD by November 25, 2025.

- Completing an online DAAD application form at the above portal.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Research Proposal, of up to 10 pages
- Two letters of reference from professor-rank scholars working in the same discipline (the letters should thoroughly discuss the applicant's professional qualifications and research proposal). When possible, letters should be written in English. The applicant must submit the letters in sealed envelopes, or the referee can send them directly to DAAD, Section ST23, Kennedyallee 50, 53175 Bonn.
- DAAD–certification of the applicant's knowledge of English or TOEFL
- Copy of academic degrees (for example B.A., M.A., Diplom, Ph.D.)

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. The DAAD cannot provide detailed information about the selection process.