EUROPA-UNIVERSITÄT VIADRINA FRANKFURT (ODER)

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service

With funding from the:

Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

ERUA European Reform University Alliance

Visiting Program for Early-Career Researchers

One-Month Fellowships for Doctoral Candidates and Postdoctoral Researchers

Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with financial support from the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)

For over 30 years, the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) has been a vibrant hub of European academic life. Situated at the heart of Europe, on the German-Polish border, it brings together scholars and students to address key issues concerning Europe's future from the perspectives of the Social Sciences and Humanities. With a strong interdisciplinary approach, Viadrina is highly international, attracting around 4,000 students from over 100 countries and maintaining more than 250 partnerships worldwide. Since its reestablishment in 1991, Viadrina has become a leading institution for teaching and research on European integration, offering a diverse range of disciplinary perspectives with a particular focus on Eastern Europe.

Objectives

The *Visiting Program for Early-Career Researchers* aims to support the development of researchers' careers by fostering academic research and promoting international exchange. This fellowship is designed for early-career researchers from the ERUA alliance who seek to establish long-term collaborations with scholars at the European University Viadrina, facilitating joint research initiatives. It provides an opportunity to conduct research abroad, acquire new skills, and advance academic careers. By offering experience in Germany, the program enables researchers to broaden their research horizons and expand their professional networks across Europe and beyond.

The program is designed for doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers up to seven years after their PhD who are pursuing an academic career and do not hold a permanent position in academia.

Period of Stay: 1 month (between January and December 2027).

Who can apply for the fellowship?

Doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers from universities in the ERUA alliance who focus on one of the ERUA research areas:

> Migration, Exile and Refugees; Democracy; Human Rights; Inclusion & Gender Equality; Interculturality and Multilingualism; Arts and Edges; Environmental Transition;

as well as additional European University Viadrina key areas:

> Digital Transformation and Social Change; Law and European Society; Market and Enterprise; Crises and Conflicts; Borders and Migrations; Language Use and Cultural Practices.

Fellows will receive funding for the entire duration of the fellowship, which includes a living allowance (€1000) and a mobility allowance (up to €400).

How to apply?

Applicants must submit the following documents by **7 December 2026**:

- Curriculum Vitae (including a publication list, if applicable)
- Motivation letter (max. 2 pages)
- Proof of affiliation with a university in the ERUA alliance[1]
- Letter of support from the academic host at the European University Viadrina, which must be included with the application and contains:
    - A brief assessment of the research project
    - A brief description of the support the academic host will provide during the research stay.

For more information about potential academic hosts and research areas, please refer to the following links:

Faculty of Law

- Professorships: Link
- Research profile: Link

Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences

- Professorships: Link
- Research profile: Link

Faculty of Business Administration and Economics

- Professorships: Link
- Research profile: Link

European New School of Digital Studies (ENS)

- Research activities: Link

Additionally, please explore potential collaboration opportunities at our Central Scientific Institutions: Link.

The letter of motivation should explicitly address the objectives of the program and demonstrate how the applicant's research aligns with the aforementioned themes. The document should identify a specific academic host and their department at the European University Viadrina. It should also explain why this host is a suitable partner for the project and outline how they will support the applicant's research. The letter should also describe the planned research and networking activities during the one-month stay. Furthermore, applicants are expected to articulate their contributions to academic exchange by highlighting their relevant expertise, skills, or resources. They are also required to provide a vision for sustained collaboration that extends beyond the initial stay. Applicants are not required to specify the precise dates of their research stay when applying; however, they may indicate preferred dates if they are already known.

Relevant documents and information

For more information on the application process or assistance in identifying potential partners, please contact our project coordinator. Applications should be submitted electronically as **a single PDF file** (max. 2 MB) to Sara Bonin (bonin@europa-uni.de), with **"Visiting Program for Early-Career Researchers 2027"** in the subject line.

Contact
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[1] e.g. certificate of enrolment, employment certificate, or official confirmation by the respective university.