

## Creating a Network of Solidarity

The **Academics in Solidarity** program intends to create a transnational network of solidarity that fosters academic freedom and promotes the advancement of durable research collaborations. In order to achieve this aim, a series of training workshops and networking events will be organized in Germany, Lebanon and Jordan throughout 2019–2021. Academics in Solidarity further seeks to establish connections with other initiatives addressing endangered scholars at local, national and international levels to support the effective coordination of activities and explore opportunities for fruitful synergies.

### Contact

Dr. Florian Kohstall  
Dr. Vera Axyonova

#### Academics in Solidarity

Center for International Cooperation  
Freie Universität Berlin  
Kaiserswerther Str. 16–18  
14195 Berlin

Phone +49 30 838 739 48  
Email [ais@fu-berlin.de](mailto:ais@fu-berlin.de)  
[www.academicsinsolidarity.net](http://www.academicsinsolidarity.net)



Gestaltung: Bauer+Möhring grafikdesign Fotos: © Bernd Wannenmacher und © iStock

## Academics in Solidarity Transnational Mentoring Program for Endangered and Displaced Scholars



SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research



## About the program

**Academics in Solidarity (AiS)** is a peer-mentoring program that connects exiled researchers and established scholars in Germany, Lebanon and Jordan. It seeks to create a network of solidarity, strengthen the value of cross-cultural research cooperation and open up new perspectives within the academic environment of the host country. The program offers support to displaced and endangered scholars through mentoring, academic counseling, network building and funding of small research endeavors. It further benefits mentors by offering them special training as well as administrative and technical support both prior to and throughout the mentoring process.



## The Mentors

**Academics in Solidarity** mentors act on a voluntary basis. The mentoring program is open to scholars of all disciplines who are able to provide a safe space for steady mutual academic exchange. Depending on the mentor's and mentee's current locations, the mentoring process may take place on site or remotely. Regardless of the format, the mentoring relationship is based on consistent contact. Besides introducing their mentees into a new academic environment and serving as regular dialog partners, mentors may provide career advice and help their mentees to identify funding opportunities for long-term research projects. Mentors are also encouraged to apply for joint funding projects with their mentees.

The **Academics in Solidarity** program is constantly searching for new mentors and encourages scholars at postdoctoral and professorial levels, interested in sharing their experiences, to contact AiS.

### AiS mentors benefit from:

- sharing their experiences with young, international scholars specializing in their fields of research
- expanding their professional networks
- targeted training in mentoring techniques, facilitating dialogs, leadership skills and intercultural competencies
- opportunities for individual coaching in collaborative research project planning in tandem with a mentee
- the possibility of receiving small grants for organizing workshops in cooperation with mentees
- reflecting on their career and getting new ideas

## The Mentees

**Academics in Solidarity** addresses endangered scholars who had to leave their home countries because of ongoing military conflicts and/or profound limitations to their academic freedom. The mentoring program is open to researchers of all disciplines and nationalities from postdoctoral level on. Applicants should preferably be new residents in their host country, having spent less than five years outside of their home country. As the program is intended to facilitate a long-term reintegration into scholarly life, it offers new networking opportunities, advice on funding options and the possibility of receiving small grants for attending conferences and organizing workshops.

In order to guarantee the safety of potential and current mentees, the application and mentoring process is conducted on a strictly confidential basis. The AiS management team makes all reasonable efforts to maintain privacy and the security of data received from prospective and current mentees and mentors.

### AiS mentees benefit from:

- academic counseling and career development advice
- building and advancing their professional networks
- insights into the academic work of their mentors
- targeted training in acquiring research funding, publishing strategies, teaching portfolio development and career advancement options
- opportunities for individual coaching in collaborative research project planning in tandem with their mentor or other mentees
- the possibility of receiving small grants for attending conferences and organizing workshops
- exchanging and sharing their experiences with other mentees