

BERLIN PROGRAM

for Advanced German and European Studies

Profile



GOALS

The Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, initiated by and established at the Freie Universität Berlin in 1986, promotes a new generation of young North American scholars with a specialized knowledge of modern and contemporary Germany and Europe. The program supports scholars in all social science and humanities disciplines, including historians working on German and European history since the mid-18th century. Fellowships are awarded for doctoral dissertation research as well as postdoctoral research. Each year, approximately twelve fellows are selected. Essential to our program's mission to deepen the understanding of Germany and Europe in North America is our close cooperation with our partner, the German Studies Association (GSA)—the largest organization of scholars, professionals, and students who focus on the study of German-speaking Europe from all periods of history and all relevant disciplines (www.thegsa.org).

ACADEMIC PROFILE

The Berlin Program is a residential program which offers a stimulating academic environment at one of Germany's leading research universities. The program's central core is our research colloquium where fellows present their research projects. Each semester, our colloquium is run by distinguished scholars of our multidisciplinary advisory committee. Members include eminent professors from all universities in Berlin and Potsdam who form a unique network of expertise that guides each cohort of fellows and facilitates contacts with other researchers and institutions.

In placing a high priority in the fellows' academic and cultural immersion in the "field", the program brings together North American fellows and German scholars, intellectuals, and artists. Throughout the academic year, the program serves as a base to build cooperation and support between fellows—a vital part of the fellowship experience.

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

Our colloquium serves as the key meeting point for all fellows to share, discuss and support each other's work. Presentations of the projects typically feature the preliminary research findings, outline the background of the project as well as the methodological and theoretical design behind the research question. Participation in the colloquium allows fellows to reflect on their ongoing research and gain knowledge of current research done in other academic fields.

Unlike most academic settings, in which opportunities for truly interdisciplinary dialogue are rare, the Berlin Program deliberately promotes a cross-disciplinary dialogue. Many of the selected projects challenge traditional disciplinary borders. In order to cultivate such exchanges, we organize theory and methodology workshops, invite distinguished individuals involved in academic, cultural, and public affairs, screen films and explore Berlin on thematic city walks.

AWARDS, ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

The program accepts applications from U.S. and Canadian nationals, and permanent or long-term residents. Applicants for a dissertation fellowship must be full-time graduate students who have completed all coursework required for the Ph.D. and must have achieved ABD status. Also eligible are U.S. and Canadian Ph.D.s who have received their doctorates within the past two calendar years. In addition, we are happy to offer Max Kade Berlin Fellowships open to recent postdocs from the U.S. Awards in all categories provide between ten and twelve months of research support.

The selection of fellows is a transatlantic process. Applications will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary committee of distinguished scholars from both sides of the Atlantic.

Fellowship application deadline: December 1.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

The Berlin Program is based at, funded and administered by the Freie Universität Berlin, one of the nation's leading research universities and one of the winners in Germany's Excellence Initiative. With its wide spectrum of subjects, multifaceted research activities, and its extensive system of more than 40 libraries, the FU Berlin offers an outstanding environment for research and study. Located in one of the densest and most innovative academic regions in Europe, a Berlin Program Fellowship offers extraordinary research opportunities in this highly productive network of expertise.

Central to the program's objectives is our close cooperation with our North American partner, the German Studies Association (www.thegsa.org). Founded in 1976 as a professional association of scholars in German, Austrian, and Swiss history, literature, art, cultural studies, political science, and economics, the GSA has been instrumental in the generation and dissemination of new knowledge on key social, cultural, and political issues through its conferences and publications. Beyond the selection of fellows, our cooperation provides multiple opportunities for scholarly exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The annual Berlin Program GSA Distinguished Lecture and Summer Workshop at the Freie Universität Berlin as well as our Berlin Program Alumni Panel at the GSA's annual conference in North America are part of our effort to feature and support exceptional scholarship in German and European Studies.

STRENGTHS AND IMPACT

Since the program's establishment at the Freie Universität Berlin in 1986 it has supported more than 320 scholars and has helped educate some of the most eminent scholars in the field. An alumni survey conducted in 2011 measuring academic trajectories showed that most respondents now teach at major research universities and colleges in the U.S., Canada and beyond.

The overwhelming majority of respondents rated the opportunity provided by the fellowship to be instrumental to their professional life. Highly productive connections with German academics and institutions (universities and research institutes such as the WZB, the ZZF, the DIW, and Max Planck institutes) and other fellows often resulted in cooperation or joint publications. Many alumni remain connected and actively shape and participate in the program's events.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Connections with the Berlin Program do not stop after the fellowship period in Berlin. Our Summer Workshops and the GSA Distinguished Lecture here at the FU Berlin, as well as our Alumni Panels at the annual GSA conference, serve as sites for critical engagement. Through these events we seek to strengthen ties between fellows, alumni and the academic community in Berlin and beyond. Recent Berlin Program events have been:

Alumni Roundtable at the GSA, San Diego, September 30, 2016: *Refugees, Migrants, Citizens: Germany's Recurring Complexities of Becoming a Country of Immigration*

GSA Distinguished Lecture, Irene Kacandes, Dartmouth College/GSA, June 30, 2016:
Memory Work for/in the 21st Century

Summer Workshop, June 23-25, 2016:
Becoming TransGerman: Transnational, Transdisciplinary, Transgender, Transhuman

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - UPCOMING IN 2017

GSA Distinguished Lecture, Sabine Hake, The University of Texas at Austin/GSA, June 12, 2017:
The Proletarian Prometheus

Summer Workshop June 28-30, 2017:
Continuities and Ruptures: Reflections on Crucial Concepts

Alumni Roundtable at the GSA, October 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia: *'The Christian, Democratic Values of the West?': Humanitarianism and Memory in Postwar Germany*

ORIENTATION, SERVICES, INFRASTRUCTURE

Berlin Program fellows enjoy access to faculty, libraries and all other services. Fellows are provided with workspaces, communication infrastructure and the assistance of an academic coordinator. All Berlin Program doctoral fellows are enrolled at the FU Berlin. In order to facilitate a smooth transition to academic life in Berlin, the program offers both general and academic orientation meetings. The general orientation provides step-by-step assistance with all organizational matters. As Berlin has one of the densest clusters of universities, research institutions and archives in Europe, the academic orientation provides an overview of the academic landscape, its structure and culture. The program's offices and events are housed in a beautiful historic redbrick building on the Dahlem campus at Ehrenbergstr. 26/28.



Berlin Program for Advanced German
and European Studies
Freie Universität Berlin
Ehrenbergstr. 26/28, 14195 Berlin, Germany
Tel.: +49 30 838 56671
Email: bprogram@zedat.fu-berlin.de
Website: www.fu-berlin.de/bprogram