

# BERLIN PROGRAM

for Advanced German & 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 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-18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 transatlantic advisory committee. Members include eminent professors from the U.S. and from all universities in Berlin and Potsdam who form a unique network of expertise that selects and 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 hosts events which bring together fellows with scholars, public intellectuals, and artists.

## **APPLICATION**

Competition opening: November 1

Deadline: December 1

## RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

Our colloquium serves as the key meeting point for all fellows to share, discuss, and support each other's work. 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. In order to cultivate such exchanges, we organize theory and methodology workshops, invite public intellectuals and artists, screen films, and explore Berlin on thematic city walks. Throughout the academic year, the colloquium thus serves as a base to develop the projects and build cooperation between our researchers.

## 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 by the time their fellowship begins. 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. Starting with 2019/20 we are able to offer two Kerstin Leitner Berlin Fellowships for Ph.D. candidates from Malawi and the inner provinces of China.

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.

## **ORIENTATION, SERVICES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Berlin Program fellows enjoy access to faculty, libraries, and all other university 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 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 second orientation provides an overview of the academic landscape, its structures, and culture. The program's offices are housed in a beautiful historic redbrick building on the Dahlem campus at Ehrenbergstr. 26/28.



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## **INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE**

The Berlin Program is based at, funded and administered by the Freie Universität Berlin, one of the nation's leading research universities. A two-time winner in Germany's Excellence Initiative, the FU is performing very well in the current national Excellence Strategy and has secured funding for four excellence clusters. 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 the densest and most innovative academic regions in Europe, a Berlin Program Fellowship offers extraordinary research opportunities in this highly productive network of expertise.

Essential to the program's mission is our close cooperation with our North American partner, the German Studies Association ([www.thegsa.org](http://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 generating and disseminating new knowledge on key social, cultural, and political issues through its conferences and publications. Beyond our joint nomination 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 350 scholars and has helped educate some of the most eminent scholars in the field. Berlin Program Alumni teach at major research universities and colleges in the U.S., Canada, and beyond. An alumni survey conducted in 2011

measuring academic trajectories showed that 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 Max Planck institutes, the WZB, the ZZF, and the DIW) were formed during their fellowship and resulted in research cooperations and joint publications. The number of prestigious prizes and fellowships won by fellows may further illustrate their academic excellence. Among the many honors received by Berlin Program Alumni, the Fritz Stern Prizes awarded by the Friends of the German Historical Institute for excellent dissertations may serve as a spotlight: Of the 36 prizes conferred since 1997, eleven have gone to Berlin Program Alumni.

## ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Connections with the Berlin Program do not stop after the fellowship period in Berlin. Our biannual Alumni Newsletter features recent alumni publications, career moves, prizes and honors received as well as general program news. The newsletter announces upcoming events at the FU Berlin such as our Summer Workshops, the GSA Distinguished Lecture, talks with special guests as well as our Alumni Panels at the annual GSA conference in the United States. With these activities we seek to strengthen ties between fellows, alumni and the academic community in Berlin and beyond.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING IN 2019

- GSA Distinguished Lecture, Johannes von Moltke, University of Michigan/GSA, **July 4, 2019**:  
*The Meme is the Message: Alt-Right/Neue Rechte and the Political Affordances of Social Media*
- Summer Workshop, **June 24–26, 2019**:  
*Disorientations/Desorientierungen*
- Alumni Roundtable at the GSA, **October 3–6, 2019** in Portland, Oregon: *Across the Borders of Text and Nation: Intertextuality and Intermediality in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Film, Art, and Exhibition Culture*