

Research Programme “Culture and Foreign Policy”

Call for proposals

ifa’s Research Programme “Culture and Foreign Policy” provides experts with an opportunity to study current topics related to Germany’s foreign cultural and educational policy and to work at the interface between theory and practice. Research projects normally last three to six months. During this period, the experts involved in the project provide actors in the area of international cultural relations with clear, concise summaries of the latest academic findings. They formulate recommendations for future external policy strategies, initiate expert dialogue and organise discussion forums and events.

In 2018, ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) and the Goethe-Institut founded the Martin Roth-Initiative as a joint project to provide at-risk artists and civil-society actors with temporary protective relocation and work stays in Germany as well as in third countries. To contribute to the structural and content-related enhancement of existing programmes one field of activity of the Martin Roth-Initiative is dedicated to accompanying research, the results of which are published on a regular basis.

Together with the Goethe-Institut and the Martin Roth-Initiative, ifa invites for proposals for a research project, subject to approval of funds, under the following topic:

Mobility restrictions for the international relocation of at-risk artists: Learnings for (post-)pandemic times

International cultural and artistic exchange is based on mobility, freedom of assembly, access to physical and digital infrastructure and financial resources. The current COVID-19 pandemic seriously restricts these opportunities for cultural and creative sectors worldwide. The production and presentation of cultural programmes is significantly limited, and many artists and cultural managers suffer from economic hardship and isolation.

This new situation also affects the work of international temporary shelter and relocation initiatives that support artists and cultural workers at risk. Such programmes were a response to repressive contexts and shrinking civic spaces worldwide. They aim to strengthen civil society actors who are threatened or persecuted by state and non-state actors because their work touches on issues such as freedom of expression, freedom of the arts, democracy or human rights. Temporary relocations enable them to go abroad for a limited time, to rest and respite and ideally to continue their work. Under the circumstances of COVID-19, the question is how such programmes can keep maintaining pre-political spaces of freedom both in the physical/local and in the digital sphere.

With the help of this research project, the Martin Roth-Initiative would like to gain insights into the subjects listed below and thus provide suggestions and impulses for learning from the current experiences:

- Which restrictions and obstacles do artists and practitioners from the cultural and creative sectors face under the conditions of the current pandemic?
- How do these obstacles impact the conditions and the practice of international temporary relocation programmes?
- Which of these changed circumstances and practices might have a longer-term impact on relocation programmes, also in post-pandemic times?
- Which infrastructures and best practices are developed to cope with this situation and to provide alternatives to what was common before?
- What additional measures are needed to tackle the identified obstacles effectively?
- Are there specific groups (or regions) in the cultural sector that are disproportionately affected in a negative way? What are their coping strategies, and what kind of extra support would they need?
- What can actors both from the cultural and creative sectors and the field of relocation (including host programmes and donors) learn from these experiences, and what learning effects could be used for positive change of their practices? What are recommendations for them in order to learn from the pandemic and to successfully support at-risk artists in the future?

Previous publications of the Martin Roth-Initiative illuminate different facets of shelter and relocation programmes (see <https://www.ifa.de/en/research/research-programme-martin-roth-initiative/>). The tendered study should deepen and supplement these previous findings with the above-mentioned questions.

Furthermore, preliminary findings of the study have to be presented at an online workshop in summer 2021. The researcher is expected to prepare and actively participate in this event.

Format: The study will be published in the form of a written report; the researcher will present interim results at an online workshop

Duration: 4 months

Begin: April 2021

Workplace: flexible

Remuneration: 6,000 € (gross)

Application deadline: 15 March 2021

Please send your complete application (as a file attachment with no more than 3 MB) by e-mail no later than **15 March 2021** to Dr Lisa Bogerts: lb@martin-roth-initiative.de

Selection interviews are expected to take place in CW 8

Further information on the Martin Roth-Initiative: www.martin-roth-initiative.de

Further information on ifa can be found at: www.ifa.de

Further information on the Goethe-Institute can be found at: <http://www.goethe.de>

The following application requirements and procedures apply to all projects:

Application requirements

- Postgraduate degree (minimum M.A.)
- Proven experience and knowledge in the field of protection, shelter and residency programs for civil society actors as well as artists and cultural workers
- Knowledge of the work, organizational logic and structures of civil society organisations working in their home country on freedom of expression, freedom of the arts, democracy or human rights
- For projects with an event format: proven experience in public speaking and presentation
- For projects involving publication: very good, proven knowledge of editorial work and academic publications (practice-oriented research)
- Very good knowledge of written and spoken English
- Knowledge of further languages (especially French, Spanish or Arabic) is an advantage
- The project can be assigned as a research contract or a research grant (stipend). Research grants on offer are full-time grants. Candidates who are awarded a grant are not allowed to take on other employment during the period of the research project. This does not apply to research contracts.

Application procedures

Please attach the following documents to your application:

1. Letter of motivation (including address, e-mail, phone/fax/mobile numbers)
2. Your CV
3. Description of project:
 - Title and topic
 - Short description of the topic's relevance and gaps in existing research
 - Brief outline of project plan, incl. research methodology (max. 2 pages)
 - Provisional work plan
 - Work plan or schedule showing that the project is feasible within the funding period
 - Indication of relevant sources and methods