

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 (MRI). The MRI supports artists who are committed in their home country to the freedom of art, democracy and human rights by enabling temporary residence in Germany or third countries for the purpose of protecting those who are being persecuted. To contribute to the structural and content-related enhancement of existing programmes, one field of activity of the MRI is accompanying research, the results of which are published on a regular basis.

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

### **Towards a fairer and more anti-discriminatory support for international relocation in North-South contexts**

International shelter and relocation programmes advocate for the freedom of expression and aim to support civil society actors, such as artists, journalists or human rights defenders. However, they do not act outside of global and historically shaped power asymmetries and patterns of inequality. While they seek to empower participants in and from different parts of the world, there are limits to the possibility of “eye-level” support and partnership, especially between actors from the Global North vs. South and from state institutions vs. civil society. Most donors and staff of relocation programmes are located in the Global North, while most participants who are seeking support come from the Global South. The regulations and requirements for obtaining support and the concepts they are based on are shaped by donor expectations and may be difficult to apply to the (diverse) realities in the home countries of participants and partner organisations. Participants have commonly experienced restricted freedom in their home countries and seek to temporarily live in safer spaces. Yet, many of them face additional discrimination when migrating to another country during their relocation period, particularly structural and everyday racism. Programme staff is confronted with the question of how to support in a solidarity-based way, while effectively avoiding paternalism, victimization and other patterns that may reproduce the participants’ experiences with discrimination unintentionally.

How can the work and design of mobility, shelter, and relocation programmes be more sensitive to these challenges and make support, protection and cooperation as empowering and fair as possible? With the help of a short research project, the Martin Roth-Initiative would like to gain insights into these subjects and provide impetus for future learning. The research aims to identify which aspects of the work of relocation programmes are affected by the abovementioned challenges and which

approaches can help make support better. It should provide staff, managers and donors of support organisations with recommendations of how to employ an anti-discriminatory approach in their daily work. Research should cover support mechanisms for different civil society target groups (e.g. activists, human rights defenders, journalists, academics), with particular attention to the target groups of the MRI (artists and cultural workers).

Sub-questions for research could be the following:

- What learning materials and tools on the topics of power imbalances, anti-racism and decolonizing North-South cooperation are already available in fields that are relevant for international relocation? And how can they be made accessible and applicable to the work of relocation programmes? The relevant fields may include international cultural and artistic exchange, support of human rights defenders, international development cooperation, migration and refugee support, inter alia.
- How can relocation programmes appropriately and sensitively support their participants in dealing with experiences of discrimination, particularly racism?
- How can managers and staff of relocation programmes reflect on the questions of privilege, power position, and diversity in both their daily work and the design of programme activities? What tools may help them employ an anti-racist approach in their concepts, processes and language? This may include reflections on concepts such as white saviourism, critical whiteness, solidarity and empowerment, inter alia.
- How can the reproduction of (neo)colonial patterns be avoided, while acknowledging the limitations given by global political constellations?

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, the researcher will present preliminary findings at an online workshop in summer 2022. The researcher is expected to prepare and actively participate in this event.

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

**Duration:** 4 months (for research and writing; followed by text editing loops for final publication)

**Begin:** March 2022

**Workplace:** flexible

**Remuneration:** 6,000 € (gross)

**Application deadline:** 15 February 2022

Please send your complete application (as a file attachment with no more than 3 MB) by e-mail no later than **15 February 2022** to Dr Lisa Bogerts: [lb@martin-roth-initiative.de](mailto:lb@martin-roth-initiative.de)

Selection interviews are expected to take place in the first week of March 2022.

Further information on the Martin Roth-Initiative: [www.martin-roth-initiative.de/en](http://www.martin-roth-initiative.de/en)

Further information on ifa can be found at: [www.ifa.de/en](http://www.ifa.de/en)

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

The following application requirements and procedures apply to all projects:

### **Application requirements**

- Knowledge of the work, organizational logic and structures of civil society organisations working on freedom of expression, freedom of the arts, democracy or human rights
- Experience in consulting, educating, awareness-raising or training on the topics of social justice, anti-racism or decolonial approaches
- Knowledge in the field of protection, shelter and art residency programs for civil society actors
- Postgraduate degree (minimum M.A.)
- Very good knowledge of written and spoken English
- For projects involving publication: very good, proven knowledge of editorial work and academic publications in English (preferably practice-oriented research)
- For projects with an event format: proven experience in public speaking and presentation
- The project will be assigned as a research contract.

### **Application procedure**

Please attach the following documents to your application:

1. Letter of motivation (including address, e-mail, phone/mobile numbers)
2. Your CV (including list of publications)
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)
  - Indication of relevant sources and methods
  - Work plan or time schedule showing that the project is feasible within the funding period