WRITE EAST – Scholarship Programme of the Leibniz Research Network "Central and Eastern Europe" – for Media Professionals

Call for Applications

The "Write East" Scholarship programme of the Leibniz Research Network Central and Eastern Europe enables media professionals interested in Central and Eastern Europe to spend a week-long stay at one of the institutes listed below. Visits to other institutes within the network can also be arranged over the course of the fellowship. The stays will take place in 2026 and will be funded by the Leibniz Association.

The scholarship programme aims to build a network of established and emerging experts working on Central and Eastern Europe across a wide range of disciplines. During their stay, participants will gain an insight into the research topics and approaches of researchers as well as their daily work and activities.

The Scholarship

As a fellow of the Leibniz Research Network Central and Eastern Europe, media professionals who work or plan to work on Central and Eastern Europe will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the research and the region for one week and thereby develop a personal network with established and emerging scholars with proven expertise on Central and Eastern Europe. During the scholarship, fellows will work on a research project of their choice related to Central and Eastern Europe at one or more of the research network's institutes. They will be fully involved in the institutes' day-to-day activities. The research network will also facilitate contacts with other researchers within the network, enable fellows to participate in internal and external events at the participating institutes, and guarantee free use of all available research resources.

Key Facts about the Scholarship:

- The length of the stay can be determined individually; a stay of one week at one of the participating institutes is desirable. Visits to other institutes will be encouraged.
- The fellowship amount is 850 euros. In addition, a flat rate fee of 150 euros will be granted to cover travel expenses.
- You will carry out research on a project of your choice related to the host institution's research.

- The host institution will work with you to develop an programme thanks to which you will be closely involved in discussions, conferences, teaching and the scientists' research activities.

Leibniz Research Network Central and Eastern Europe

The Leibniz Association brings together a wide range of scientific research expertise on Central and Eastern Europe in institutions outside the German university system. Many Leibniz Institutes have been conducting research on Eastern Europe for decades and maintain close links with partners in the region. Since 2015, 24 Leibniz Institutes have been cooperating across disciplines in the Leibniz Research Network Central and Eastern Europe. The regional portfolio of the Leibniz Institutes includes the eastern member states of the European Union and the south-eastern European EU candidate countries, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Belarus and the states of the Caucasus and Central Asia. Research is also being conducted on Russia, with which relations have been suspended since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. The disciplines include the humanities and social sciences; spatial sciences, economics, environmental, agricultural and climate research; health research, education and engineering.

The hosting institutions for the scholarship programme include the following Leibniz Institutes:

- Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Leipzig
- Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe (HI), Marburg
- Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz
- Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig
- Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IÖR), Dresden
- Leibniz Centre for Modern Oriental Studies (ZMO), Berlin

Further information can be found on the homepage of the research network: https://www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/en/research/leibniz-research-networks/central-and-eastern-europe

How to Apply

We welcome applications from media professionals and creatives working across all media formats. Applicants are asked to choose one of the six participating institutes and submit their application directly to the respective institute. Simultaneous applications to several institutes are not permitted.

Applicants are expected to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the research profiles of the participating institutes. As English is the working language at some institutes, an excellent command of English is required in those cases.

You are applying for a fellowship in 2026. The exact period of your stay can be freely arranged in consultation with the respective selection committee.

The deadline for applications with a CV, a letter of motivation and 2 writing samples is 07 April 2026.

Please send your application as a single PDF document with the subject line "WRITE EAST" to the following email addresses:

- Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Leipzig
  foerderung@leibniz-gwzo.de
- Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe (HI), Marburg
  mail@herder-institut.de
- Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz
  fellowship@ieg-mainz.de
- Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig
  personal@leibniz-ifl.de
- Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IÖR), Dresden
  jobs@ioer.de
- Leibniz Centre for Modern Oriental Studies (ZMO), Berlin
  zmo@zmo.de

If you have any questions about the programme, please contact the coordinator of Leibniz Research Network Central and Eastern Europe:

Dr. Magda Wlostowska
lfn_oestliches_europa@leibniz-gwzo.de
0341-234 264 37

Data protection notice

Your personal data will be processed as part of the application process within the institute to which you have addressed your application. Your personal data contained in the application documents or obtained during the interview will be processed exclusively for the purposes of the selection process for this position. The legal basis for the data processing is § 11 para. 1 of the Saxon Data Protection Implementation Act in conjunction with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The person responsible for the application process is the addressee of the application stated above in this advertisement. As part of the application process, your personal data will be shared within the institute with

- Members of the Selection Committee,
- The Human Resources Department,
- The Equal Opportunities Officer,
- The Inclusion Officer
- The Works Council

within the scope of their organisational or legal responsibilities.

Your personal data will be deleted no later than six months after the selection procedure has been completed. According to the GDPR, you have the following rights vis-à-vis the recipient of the application if the relevant legal requirements are met: Right of

access (Art. 15 GDPR), right to rectification of inaccurate personal data (Art. Art. 16 DS-GVO0); data deletion (Art. 17 DS-GVO), restriction of processing (Art. 18 DS-GVO) and objection to processing (Art. 21 DS-GVO). If you have any questions, you can contact the data protection officer of the institute to which you have addressed your application. Furthermore, you have the right to appeal to the data protection officer of the federal state in which the institute which your are applying is based.