

Global Invisible University Fellowships

2027/28

Call for Applications

Deadline for Application: 1 October 2026

Central European University is pleased to invite applications for its **Global Invisible University Fellowship program** for the academic year 2027/28, conceived in conjunction with the **Institute for Advanced Study** (IAS CEU).

Junior and Senior Residential Core Fellowships, Residential Affiliated Fellowships and Residential and Non-residential Fellowships for Threatened Scholars are available in the social sciences and humanities, in the fields that contribute to the development of the Global Invisible University (GIU) curricular and research priorities, described below. Residential fellows can be hosted for a 9-month period (October-June), for a 3-month short fall semester (October-December), a 5-month fall semester (October-February) or a 6-month spring semester (January-June).

Non-residential Fellowships of 6 to 12 months are exclusively available to Threatened Scholars as defined below and are awarded based on specific contributions to the GIU online and hybrid teaching and mentoring programs. Non-residential Fellowships for Threatened Scholars are available during the period of August 2027 to July 2028.

In line with CEU's process of transformation, our fellowship programs are meant to contribute to the formation of a Global Invisible University, integrating research, teaching, and civic engagement. **GIU** is a strategic initiative designed to build a new model of a "university for the future" that responds to the global crisis facing higher education, scholarship and production of and access to knowledge in contexts of war, displacement, autocratization, commercialization, and repression. It is an innovative transnational program combining university-level courses, mentoring, and research, by and for students and scholars threatened by the rising tide of authoritarianism and crises that constrain academia, with the aim of creating more resilient, democratic, and open societies.

The current fellowship program is envisioned as the principal research arm of GIU and draws on the 15 years-long institutional tradition and practices of the Institute of Advanced Study at CEU, which as of the academic year 2027/28 will transform into the base academic unit of GIU, serving also as its principal research support hub, based on IAS's resources, networks, and research support infrastructure. We are soliciting applications from scholars who seek to be part of an experimental academic community, where individual research and concern with new modalities of knowledge production and transfer reinforce each other, in search of a way out of the current crisis of higher education worldwide.

Apart from the weekly research seminars, fellows will be invited to participate in thematic discussions on the role of universities in the new cultural, epistemic and political contexts and the ways in which non-traditional educational practices can contribute to the renewal of academia and foster resilience and solidarity among scholars and learners. We also expect our fellows to contribute to integrating their cutting-edge research into innovative and interdisciplinary university curricula that will be piloted in the GIU.

Fellows are chosen through a rigorous selection process, which includes stages of pre-selection and peer reviews as well as a final decision made by an independent, interdisciplinary, and international Selection Committee. The fellowship supports cutting-edge interdisciplinary scholarship and welcomes innovative research proposals. Young scholars with a demonstrated promise of excellence will be considered; established senior scholars are expected to have solid records of world-class scholarship. Applicants are expected to relate to at least one of the **key thematic areas of the Global Invisible University**:

1. Democratization, de-democratization and re-democratization
2. Politics of history, memory and culture wars, nationalist and transnationalist discourses
3. Political economy and global inequalities
4. Human rights and justice in the context of international and comparative law
5. Crisis of multilateralism, politics and dynamics of regional and global institutions and alliances
6. The politics of the Anthropocene, climate justice, natural resources
7. Old and new media and their networks (information warfare, safer use, securitization)
8. Epistemological problems of social sciences in the digital age (the problem of evidentiary procedures, truth-claims, archival practices, "forensic social sciences")

All disciplines within this thematic remit are welcome and interdisciplinary projects are especially encouraged. The main criterion for selection is the expectation that each fellow's stay at CEU will yield original and significant research results and their research contributes to the broader aims of the Global Invisible University.

CEU operates at two locations, with the main campus in Vienna and several research institutes and centers in Budapest, such the Blinken OSA Archivum, the Democracy Institute, the Center for Ethics and Law in Biomedicine, various artistic, cultural, and non-degree educational programs, and the CEU Library. Budapest is one of Central Europe's most attractive cities, which is currently serving as a laboratory of re-democratization.

IAS CEU provides a stimulating environment in which fellows can devote themselves to research and writing and share their work with peers through weekly seminars and other community activities. Fellows have access to all CEU facilities, including seminar and conference space, computer services, and library resources. They benefit from CEU's international atmosphere, its strong regional ties in Central and Eastern Europe, and its international scholarly networks. Based at GIU/IAS, the fellows will engage with other parts of the university in Budapest and in Vienna, as well as with Hungarian and Austrian, regional and international scholarly communities through collaborative projects, joint public programs and related activities. For further information about IAS CEU, please refer to the Institute's website at <https://ias.ceu.edu>.

Eligibility, qualifications, experience

- Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent in the social sciences or humanities *at the time of their application*.
- Only those with publications in internationally recognized scholarly outlets will be considered.
- Applicants for the Junior Fellowship must have obtained a Ph.D. degree issued in 2018 or later. Candidates who obtained their Ph.D. before 2018 are considered “senior” and must apply for the Senior Fellowship.
- Full time CEU employees and students are not eligible to apply for 5 years after the end of their studies/contract (degrees must have been received and contracts must have ended by December 31, 2021 or earlier).
- Part-time/temporary employees of CEU are not eligible for 1 year after their contract ends (their contract must have ended by December 31, 2025 or earlier).

- Scholars currently affiliated with any of CEU's academic or research units are not eligible to apply.
- Former fellows of IAS CEU are not eligible to apply again for a period of 7 years.
- Reapplication is possible only 3 times within a period of 5 years.
- Applicants are expected to be able to communicate fluently in English as this is the working language of CEU.
- All nationalities are encouraged to apply.

Applicants who are considered Threatened Scholars

- Such applicants are defined as scholars who are at risk (loss of jobs, harassment or violence, or legal persecution) due to their political and civic positions of dissent, identity, practice of critical scholarship and exercise of academic freedom, as well as scholars in/from zones of active military conflict that affects them immediately.
- Applicants from these countries and of backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply: Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Western Balkans, as well as Roma, and nationals of countries of Central and Southeast Asia and the Middle East.
- Applicants who wish to be considered for a Threatened Scholars Fellowship must provide a personal statement of risk and/or any third-party documentation (Scholars at Risk assessment, referral from a scholars rescue program, public media, etc.) that describes the nature of the threat they face.
- All eligibility criteria above apply to the Threatened Scholar candidates, with reasonable accommodations made on a case-by-case basis, following personal interviews.
- Threatened Scholars who, for personal or legal reasons, cannot commit to a residential fellowship at CEU, may be supported as non-residential fellows.

Terms and conditions

Senior fellows receive a net monthly stipend of 2,600 Euros and junior fellows receive a net monthly stipend of 1,500 Euros to help support their stay in Budapest. In addition, all fellows and their families receive housing at the Raoul Wallenberg Guesthouse, located in the Castle district and in close proximity to CEU's Budapest site. Utilities at the Guesthouse will be charged to the Fellows. Fellows are also responsible for their own travel and health care provisions. Fellows are expected to reside in Budapest during their fellowship, participate in the intellectual life of CEU, and pursue their research agenda. Research and consultative visits to CEU's

Vienna campus and collaboration with faculty members there will be facilitated by the program as well, based on individual arrangement.

Threatened Scholars hosted as non-residential fellows receive a net monthly stipend of 1,000 Euros and allowance for travel and short-term stays at CEU and in-person participation in the academic events of GIU and other relevant activities at CEU as possible.

Residential Affiliated Fellows do not receive a stipend and may or may not receive housing from the Institute. They may receive office space based on availability. Affiliated fellows are responsible for their own travel and health care provisions.

How to apply:

The deadline for application is **the 1st of October 2026**.

All applications must be submitted through our online application system. This year's application form will be open starting from 14 August 2026.

Step 1: Prepare your **application package**: create a **single pdf file** no larger than 12 MBs containing all your application documents. The name of the pdf file should contain your name and the type of fellowship you are applying to. Example: Doe, Jane_Core.pdf *or* Doe, Jane_TS.pdf *or* Doe, Jane_Affiliated.pdf.

Your **application package** should contain the following documents. Only applications using the requested format and word counts will be considered for review:

1. A letter of intent, including a paragraph on how the applicant sees the problems of academic freedom and transnational cooperation in the face of global autocratic threats against higher education and research institutions and describing the possible contribution to the Global Invisible University program (max 1,500 words)
2. The abstract of your research project (max. 150 words)
3. A description of your research project (min. 1,000 – max. 2,500 words; the reference list is not included in the word count)
4. A statement on your teaching experience to date, subjects and courses you are enthusiastic to teach (or develop), and your teaching philosophy (max. 1 page)
5. A CV (max. 5 pages)

6. A list of your most important publications, including up to 5 items for junior applicants and up to 15 items for senior applicants (please do not include full text articles!)
7. References: for junior applicants ONLY: the name and email address of two referees (for potential reference)
8. Applicants for the Threatened Scholars Fellowship are requested to include a personal statement of risk and/or third-party documentation of the nature of the threat they face.

Step 2: Go to the **GIU Fellowship Application Form** for the Academic Year 2027/28 by clicking on the following link and fill in all your data as required:

https://sits.ceu.edu/urd/sits.urd/run/siw_sso.go?GIU-FELLOW_APPLICATION-cX8fQOej1ug5mNF2FmqCG8QP56l

Step 3: As a final step, **upload** your application package (pdf), and **submit** your application.

Please note that you cannot save your work and continue filling in the form at a later time, so you are asked to submit your application when you have all information and materials ready! Incomplete forms, or applications submitted in any other way than what is described in this Call will not be considered.

Please note that incomplete applications, when either the webform is not filled in or the pdf application package is not included, will not be considered. Upon successful submission, you will receive an automated email confirmation of receipt of your application.

All applications must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. (CET) on 1 October 2026**.

Successful candidates will be informed in late February 2027. All others will be notified of the result of the evaluation process by the end of April 2027 the latest. **Please kindly note the results of the evaluation process (reviews, scores) will not be shared with the applicants.**

For further information please visit: <http://ias.ceu.edu>. Please send your questions and comments to GIU_applications@ceu.edu.

CEU is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion.

The privacy of your personal information is very important to us. We collect, use, and store your personal information in accordance with the requirements of

the General Data Protection Regulation. To learn more about how we manage your personal data during the application/selection process, please kindly refer to our [Privacy Notice](#).