Europa Kolleg Hamburg
Institute for European Integration

Call for Applications

Early-Career Fellowship at Europa-Kolleg Hamburg

Democratic Resilience, Authoritarian Populism and Participation in Europe

Fellowship period: 1 April–30 June 2027

Europa-Kolleg Hamburg invites applications for a **three-month fellowship** on “Democratic Resilience, Authoritarian Populism and Participation in Europe”.

The aim of **Europa-Kolleg Hamburg** is to promote academic studies concerning the political, social, economic, legal, historical, intellectual and cultural foundations and issues of Europe and their international contexts. Through its **Institute for European Integration**, an academic institution at the University of Hamburg, Europa-Kolleg Hamburg provides a setting for interdisciplinary research and international academic exchange.

The **fellowship** is designed to give early-career researchers (doctoral and early postdocs) time to focus on their own projects, to present their research, and to connect with other fellows at Europa-Kolleg Hamburg. The fellowship is limited to the period from **1 April to 30 June 2027**.

The fellowship focuses on current challenges and transformations of democracy in Europe. We welcome theoretical, normative, historical, empirical and legal approaches, including work in political theory and the history of ideas. Particular areas of interest include authoritarian populism and threats to democratic institutions, the conditions of democratic resilience and changing forms of political participation and representation. Projects may, for example, examine the fragmentation and vulnerability of public spheres, processes of political polarisation, citizens’ assemblies, mini-publics and other deliberative procedures, economic democracy, the potential role of trade unions and collective representation or emerging forms of political mobilisation. Projects exploring the historical development, conceptual foundations or legal frameworks of these issues are equally welcome.

This list is illustrative rather than exhaustive. Applicants should explain how their project relates to the fellowship’s thematic focus and what contribution it seeks to make.

What the Fellowship Offers:

- a **stipend of €1,700 per month**
- a workspace at Europa-Kolleg Hamburg
- participation in a cohort of fellows
- interdisciplinary exchange with other fellows and researchers in Hamburg

If your application is successful, you will also have access to rental accommodation at Europa-Kolleg Hamburg at a reduced rate.

Fellows are expected to:

- work regularly at Europa-Kolleg Hamburg during the fellowship period
- actively participate in exchange with other fellows
- participate in discussions of other fellows' projects (please note our other open call for fellowship applications)
- present their research project
- publish a blog post or comparable public-facing text

Applications must include:

- letter of motivation, max. 2 pages
- description of the research project, max. 2 pages, including an explanation of how the project fits the thematic field
- proof of current affiliation with an academic institution
- curriculum vitae and, if applicable, a list of publications
- a copy of the applicant's most recent diploma
- for doctoral researchers: a letter of recommendation from at least one professor who knows the applicant and is familiar with their work and abilities

Please also give us an indication of whether you are interested in accommodation at Europa-Kolleg Hamburg.

Application deadline: 21 December 2026 (23:59 GMT+1)
Applications should be sent to: institute@europa-kolleg-hamburg.de

Please email us if you have questions regarding this fellowship.

Selection

Selection will be based on the applicant's academic merit, the quality and interdisciplinary profile of their research project and their motivation to contribute actively to academic exchange within the fellowship cohort.