2016/17 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MERCATOR-IPC FELLOWSHIPS

Stiftung Mercator and Istanbul Policy Center at Sabancı University invite academics, journalists, and professionals to apply for the Mercator-IPC Fellowship Program. The program aims to strengthen academic, political, and social ties between Turkey and Germany, as well as between Turkey and Europe and based on the premise that the acquisition of knowledge and the exchange of people and ideas are preconditions for meeting the challenges of an increasingly globalized world in the 21st century.

Mercator-IPC Fellows work at Istanbul Policy Center (IPC), an independent policy research institute with global outreach located in downtown Istanbul. IPC’s mission is to foster academic research and its application to policy making. The Center is firmly committed to providing decision makers, opinion leaders, academics, and the general public with innovative and objective analyses of key domestic and foreign policy issues.

IPC offers Mercator-IPC Fellows access to a broad network of academics, civil society activists, and decision makers as well as a unique platform for sound academic research to shape hands-on policy work. Fellows benefit from Sabancı University’s exceptional intellectual capital and vast reserves of scientific knowledge.

WHO CAN APPLY?

In the 2016/17 round, Mercator-IPC Fellowships will be available for outstanding young academics, journalists, and professionals who have significant prior work experience. The fellows will be expected to work on academic or practical projects at IPC. A Master’s degree (or equivalent) is required for this position, but a PhD degree is strongly preferred. Applicants without a PhD degree will only be accepted if their work experience and expertise meet the program requirements according to the jury’s satisfaction. Projects focusing on the German-Turkish nexus are likewise preferred. Applicants cannot apply for fellowships to fund their PhD dissertations.

Fellowships are available for a period of six to twelve months and are predominantly, but not exclusively, granted to applicants from Germany and/or with a strong connection to German society. Unless the fellows are required to travel to complete their individual projects, they are encouraged to be physically present in Istanbul for the duration of their fellowship.

Project proposals can be of an academic or practical nature. However, in order to ensure the socio-political impact of fellowship work, applicants should also include a proposal for at least one project designed for public outreach such as an event or publication.

The fellowship program will be open to academics and professionals who work in one of the following two thematic areas: EU/German-Turkish relations and climate change.
EU/GERMAN-TURKISH RELATIONS

The Initiative and its fellowship program aim to give new impetus to the EU/German-Turkish partnership. The Turkey-EU summit held in November 2015 has opened new pathways for discussion and dialogue with the implementation of the joint Action Plan on migration management re-energizing the accession process and visa liberalization talks, as well as the December 2015 opening of Chapter 17. In the wake of the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II, it is imperative that Turkey and the EU develop joint actions to not only regulate the flow of refugees and migrants moving from Turkey to the EU but also to develop models for integrating refugees into society. Education, in this sense, plays a leading role in promoting mutual respect in a culture of living together and in developing joint policy towards this challenge. Furthermore, in the midst of economic and foreign policy related challenges, Turkey’s role in preserving stability in the region is crucial now more than ever. Turkey-EU, as well as Turkish-German, relations bear considerable opportunities for successfully tackling new challenges together.

Subtopics in this area:

| Re-energizing the accession process and discussing Turkey’s role in the future architecture of the EU; |
| Exploring methods of cooperation complementary to the accession process; |
| Turkey’s role in the MENA region and its importance in the EU’s external actions and foreign policy; |
| Refugee crises in the Europe and implications for EU/German-Turkish relations; |
| Managing and teaching diversity in pluralist societies/Education as a means to promote democratization and a culture of living together |
| Integration of refugees into education systems in the EU and Turkey |

CLIMATE CHANGE

Few issues necessitate international cooperation as strongly as the need to respond to the threat of climate change. Thus, most recently world leaders gathered in Paris for COP21 to reach a universal agreement addressing this issue. The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions can only be accomplished through the joint efforts of national governments, businesses, academia, civil society groups, and individual citizens. In particular, the transformation of energy systems in Europe and elsewhere towards decarbonization is crucial for reducing greenhouse gases in order to mitigate climate change.

The Mercator-IPC Fellowship Program aims to raise awareness among decision makers and the broader public of the threats posed by climate change. In Turkey especially, the issue of climate change has so far not received the necessary political and public attention.

Subtopics in this area:

| Mapping the impacts of climate change in Europe and Turkey; |
| Analysis of the social and economic impacts of climate change and related policies; |
| Obstacles to policy reform (in developing countries) and overcoming the alleged dichotomy of economic development and environmentally friendly policies; |
| Mechanisms for effective multi-level governance in climate change mitigation and adaptation; |
| Turkey’s climate and energy policies in the European context |

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

Mercator-IPC Fellows will be selected by an international jury consisting of leading experts in the two thematic areas. In choosing applicants, the jury will place particular emphasis on the following criteria:

- **Academic and professional merit** based on the applicant’s publications and work experience;
- **Academic and political relevance** of the applicant’s project to one of the two thematic areas;
- General impact of the project on **EU-Turkish and especially German-Turkish relations**;
- **Applicant’s connection to German society**;
- **Coherence and feasibility** of the applicant’s project;
- Value of the project’s **public outreach** dimension;
- Applicant’s **language skills**.

All applications must be submitted in the form of a single PDF document and must contain the following documents in English:

a) A cover letter;

b) A completed application form, which can be downloaded at: [http://ipc.sabanciuniv.edu/en/about_fellowship/](http://ipc.sabanciuniv.edu/en/about_fellowship/);

c) A CV including a list of all academic publications;

d) Copies of relevant academic transcripts and/or diplomas (no translations needed);

e) A written proposal containing a detailed description of the applicant’s project. This proposal must include:

- Discussion of the research/project topic, relevant research questions/project objectives and an explanation of the academic and political relevance of the project;
- An overview of the state of research or similar projects in the field;
- An overview of the theoretical and methodological approaches to be applied in the project (if relevant);
- A bibliography or background information related to the topic.
- The proposal should not exceed five pages (2 cm margin, 1.5 spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font).

f) A second written proposal with a short description of at least one additional project designed for public outreach, such as an event or a publication. This proposal must include:
• An outline describing the project’s format and time frame;
• A description of the target group, political relevance and predicted impact of the project;
• A budget plan and a list of possible partner institutions.

The proposal should not exceed two pages (2 cm margin, 1.5 spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font). If the fellowship project described under section E is of a practical nature and already contains a public outreach component, it is not necessary to attach a second proposal.

g) A timeline of the proposed project;

h) Two letters of recommendation from professors or employers.

GRANT
Mercator-IPC Fellows will receive a monthly net payment of up to 2,700 EUR and a travel allowance of up to 2,500 EUR net in total. Fellows may furthermore be entitled to additional allowances. Please see program guidelines in the link below for further detail.

The deadline for 2016/17 fellowship applications is April 11, 2016. The fellowship begins on September 5, 2016. Please send your completed applications by email to the Program Coordinator, Ms. Çağdem Tongal (see below for contact details).

All applicants will receive a notice of receipt by email. Applicants are responsible for submitting complete applications. Incomplete applications will not be considered. For full details, please see the Mercator-IPC Fellowship Program guidelines at: http://ipc.sabanciuniv.edu/en/about_fellowship/.

For further questions, please contact:
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