2015/16 Call for applications for Mercator-IPC Fellowships

Stiftung Mercator and Istanbul Policy Center at Sabancı University invite academics, journalists and professionals with an interest in Turkey to apply for a fellowship program that aims to strengthen academic, political and social ties between Turkey and Germany, as well as Turkey and Europe. The program is 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 the 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. Likewise, fellows profit from Sabancı University’s exceptional intellectual capital and vast reserves of scientific knowledge.

In the 2015/16 round, at least six Mercator-IPC Fellowships are 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 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 6 to 12 months and are predominantly, but not exclusively, granted to applicants from Germany 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.

The fellowship program will be open to academics and professionals who work in one of the following three thematic areas:

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

Selection criteria

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

- **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 three thematic areas;
- The general impact of the project on **EU-Turkish and especially German-Turkish relations**;
- The applicant’s **connection to German society**;
- The **coherence and feasibility** of the applicant’s project;
- The value of the project’s **public outreach** dimension;
- The applicant’s **language skills**. A very good command of written and spoken English is mandatory. Knowledge of German and Turkish is an advantage.

All applications must be submitted in the form of a single PDF document¹ and must contain the following documents written in English (incomplete applications will not be considered):

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);

¹ Programs merging multiple pdf files to a single document can be found on the internet.
• A bibliography or background information related to the topic.

The proposal should not exceed 5 pages (2 cm margin, 1.5 cell spacing, 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 2 pages (2 cm margin, 1.5 cell spacing, 12pt Times New Roman font). **If the fellowship project described under e) is of a practical nature and already contains a public outreach component, it is not necessary to attach a second proposal.**

g) A time line 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.

**The 2015/16 fellowship round begins September 1, 2015 and the deadline for applications is April 20, 2015.** Please send your applications and direct further questions by email to Research Associate, Ms. Çiğdem 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/](http://ipc.sabanciuniv.edu/en/about_fellowship/).

**For further questions, please contact:**
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