
Call for applications

CALAS/HIAS Fellowship Hamburg/Bielefeld 2027

Radical Geopolitical Shifts and Regional Transformation in Latin America

The Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences (CALAS) and the Hamburg Institute for Advanced Study (HIAS) appoint outstanding scholars, scientists, and artists from Latin American research institutions to pursue their research projects for four months on-site in Hamburg and two months at Bielefeld University, Germany.

This call for applications for a fellowship at the Hamburg Institute for Advanced Study and Bielefeld University addresses interdisciplinary researchers with projects that shed light on political reactions, collaborations, horizons and visions that are currently taking place in Latin America in response to geopolitical change and the conflictive internal fragmentation of the southern hemisphere of the double American continent. CALAS and HIAS welcome applications that specifically address current transformation processes.

Like the rest of the world, Latin America is currently experiencing radical geopolitical changes. It finds itself in a zone of tension between various economic, political and even military influences and interventions, with the United States, China and the European Union as the main competitors. In particular, the new US foreign policy has brought about profound changes. Against this backdrop, the concept of Latin American unity, often symbolised as 'Our America', is continually being tested.

At the same time, the countries in the region are politically divided. The relationship between Latin American countries is being redefined by migration, populism, environmental crises, and the influence of organised crime and nationalism within the region, interacting with external global influences. What new constellations of solidarity, cooperation, delineation, and social vision are emerging in Latin America and the Caribbean? How are Latin American countries positioning themselves in relation to the United States, China and the European Union? What might Latin American responses be? What Latin American visions for the future are emerging?

General Conditions of the Fellowship:

The Fellow is offered excellent conditions in an inspiring academic and artistic environment. There are numerous opportunities for cross-disciplinary and intersectional collaborations among fellows, researchers, and artists from HIAS member institutions in Hamburg and the CALAS/CELA network in Kassel.

Eligible candidates include researchers from all disciplines and career stages from the postdoctoral level onward, as well as outstanding artists and cultural professionals from all Latin American and

Caribbean countries. Disciplines range from political economy, social sciences, and humanities to languages and the arts.

Applicants should have international visibility in their respective fields, along with demonstrated creativity and originality. They must have relevant publications related to the topic of the call and their proposed project. Additionally, the fellow is expected to actively participate in a dynamic community of scholars, scientists, artists and cultural professionals by contributing to conferences and public events. A strong command of written and spoken English and Spanish is essential.

Scholarship holders are required to reside Hamburg and Bielefeld for the whole duration of the fellowship and to participate in the activities and events organized by the respective institution.

During the stay, HIAS and Bielefeld University will provide the visiting fellow with a workplace with internet access and the university's infrastructure (library, etc.). Additionally, they will receive support in finding accommodation, completing bureaucratic formalities on-site, obtaining the required visa, etc.

CALAS/HIAS is committed to inclusive and gender parity. Applications from people with special needs are expressly welcomed. CALAS/HIAS also welcomes accompanying children and family of scholarship holders.

Planned tasks for the CALAS/HIAS fellowship in Hamburg and Bielefeld:

- Develop a research project that is related to the thematic focus of the call and its main research questions. Ideally, the project has a high degree of interdisciplinary openness.
- Publication of the results of the investigation (academic article/s).
- Teach a course in the Master program in Interamerican Studies at Bielefeld University (English or Spanish). The course should include the organization of exams and other student evaluation methods.
- Carry out at least one public academic activity (lecture, conference, colloquium) at each host institution during the stay.
- Prepare a 5-page final report on all activities carried out during the period of the fellowship.

Application:

Complete the [online application form](#) and add the following documents in English as pdf files:

- Cover letter, which should address the following points:
 - How the project fits into the CALAS/HIAS fellowship
 - What are your expectations undertaking the project.
 - Brief information on how the project matches with research activities at one of the nine HIAS member institutions in Hamburg (<https://hias-hamburg.de/en/about-us/members/>).

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- Name an academic cooperation partner in Hamburg with whom you already have collaboration or with whom you would like to start collaboration. Not having a cooperation partner in Hamburg yet will not have a negative impact on your application.¹ HIAS will support you in connecting with local researchers once your application has been successful.
 - Short statement on how your research project would benefit from the interdisciplinary exchange with the multi-disciplinary fellow group at HIAS.
 - Two-page Curriculum Vitae with a list of max. 15 relevant publications and courses taught in English and/or German.
 - Summary of the research project, including a timeline and work plan (max. 2,000 words). The proposed project establishes new perspectives/ways of thinking and shows potential for connections with other disciplines.
 - Interdisciplinary course for Kassel: (max.1 page with title and a brief course description -200 words) to be taught at Kassel University (English or German).
 - Copy of doctoral degree certificate:

Timeline:

Deadline for submission of application: **May 24, 2026**

Announcement of results: **July 15, 2026**

Start of the fellowship: **February 1, 2027** (February to May in Hamburg; June and July in Bielefeld).

Further information on the CALAS/HIAS fellowship:

Prof. Dr. Wilfried Raussert, Bielefeld University

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¹ Please do not contact researchers solely for the purpose of applying.