



From the IIAS Fellowship Coordinator

Laura Erber

The Fellowship Programme at the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) is so much more than just another funding source for individual research projects in the humanities and social sciences. It is a vibrant platform that fosters scholarly exchange, challenging fellows to question conventional area studies and disciplinary boundaries in our ever-evolving global academic landscape.

The IIAS Fellowship Programme is designed to be an inspiring environment that nurtures academic growth within a supportive and friendly framework. Bringing scholars together in Leiden to advance their research is about so much more than just providing them with the necessary conditions to refine and amplify their work. It's about exposing them to the Institute's entire knowledge ecosystem—its networks, partners, programmes, activities, actions, and ideas. A key focus of the programme is to generate and facilitate meaningful discussions that tackle the pressing issues researchers face, recognising the increasing number of scholars who encounter various barriers in their academic pursuits.

Beginning this year, our fellowship will shift to a 12-month format, with all fellows arriving in September to create a cohesive and interactive cohort. We want prospective applicants to see a fellowship at IIAS as more than a place to churn out research for publication, but, as we envision it, as fertile ground for cultivating new ideas, enriched by an enlightening exchange of life experiences and thought-provoking interactions.

In the next few years, our programme activities will pivot around two main reflective themes. The first focuses on spaces of knowledge production explored through film sessions that address life on campuses, projects of heterodox higher education institutions, and intersections between society and academia. The second

theme tackles the structure of residential fellowships and their impact on knowledge production. This kind of meta-reflection contributes to a better understanding of the systems in which the fellows themselves are inserted and how to navigate them.

Within the rapidly changing academic job landscape, in which the social sciences, the humanities, and the arts are often being assessed with technocratic tools, the very nature of the academic career is undergoing major transformations. As researchers develop their research, they continue to reflect on their professional identity, the limits of their own fields and potential directions for their future work. Lately, we have been seeing a growing number of researchers who, for various reasons, have had to leave their field of study, do not have access to essential field research sites, or face substantial challenges in connecting academic research to other forms of knowledge production.

We believe these are highly relevant issues and that they can generate significant conversations and constructive debates among our fellows. By fostering meaningful encounters, the programme aims to go beyond the traditional residency programme models, which focus on isolation and individual career development, and instead become a space for conversational and collaborative growth.

Laura Erber
Coordinator, IIAS Fellowship Programme

IIAS Fellowship Options

Would you like to join the IIAS researchers' community? Apply for one of our fellowship modalities:

IIAS Fellowship for Post-Doctoral Researchers

We invite preferably young or mid-career researchers in the Social Sciences and Humanities, to apply for a 12-month fellowship



Combine your IIAS fellowship with a short-term research experience at FMSH in Paris

When applying for an IIAS Fellowship, you have the option of simultaneously applying for an additional one to three months of residency at the Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme (FMSH) in Paris, France.



Gonda-IIAS Fellowship

Promising young Indologists at the post-doctorate level can apply for funding with the J. Gonda Foundation of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) to spend three to six months doing research at IIAS.



IIAS Collaborative Fellowship

This short-term residential fellowship is designed to embrace a broad spectrum of researchers and practitioners, encompassing not only academics but also artists, curators, librarians and editors. The programme is dedicated to transforming practices in knowledge production through active collaboration with IIAS.



Professorial Fellowship for the Chair of Taiwan Studies at Leiden University and IIAS

Are you a dedicated researcher and teacher who specialises in Taiwan Studies? You are welcome to apply for this professorship position, available for either five or ten months.



Information and application:
www.iias.asia/fellowships