



Applications Open for Fellowship in 2021/22

Gate Scribe at Pariser Platz

A Stipend for Writers in Exile offered by the Allianz Cultural Foundation and the Stiftung Brandenburger Tor

Cultural and intellectual life in the city of Berlin has always been shaped by people who immigrated, newcomers arriving from the outside. For centuries, the only way to gain access to the city was via the city gates. There, travellers encountered the royal gate scribes, who not only collected taxes and duties, but also recorded the identities of the newcomers. They decided who could enter the town – and at the same time, they admitted people who would have a lasting and transformative influence on the city's society.

One of them was Moses Mendelssohn, who came to Berlin at the age of 14 in 1743. At the Rosenthal Gate, the only gate which Jews could use in the north of the city, he managed to enter the city with some effort. He would leave his mark on an entire epoch of Berlin's social life and Jewish-German history.

The fellowship "Torschreiber am Pariser Platz" (Gate Scribe at Pariser Platz) has been initiated by the two foundations headquartered on Pariser Platz, tying in with this memory and commemorating the permanent transformation of urban society through new biographies and stories. With a change of accent: while the function of the gate scribe in former times was exclusionary – he decided who gained access and who didn't – today it is an invitation. The city opens up, becoming a place of refuge for writers.

The new Gate Scribes will put their mark on Berlin's current and future history, and their writing will be shaped by the city in turn.

The Fellowship

The fellowship enables one author to work on their own literary projects of choice for six months, starting in November 2021. A later start may be arranged after consulting. The foundations aim to help the fellow network with the city's literary life and its citizens. In consultation with the author, an individual side programme of events will be developed, including readings and cultural encounters.

Fellows receive a monthly stipend of 2,000 Euro for six months. In addition, there may be a lump sum for in-kind costs.

Selection Process

A jury will decide in October on the recipient of the fellowship. The jury consists of:

- Dr. Thomas Sparr, Editor-at-Large, Suhrkamp Publishers, Member of the Advisory Council of the Foundation Brandenburger Tor (chairman)
- Ingo Držečnik, Publisher, Elfenbein Publishers
- Dr. Basil Kerski, Director of the European Solidarność Centre in Gdansk and Member of the Board of the Allianz Cultural Foundation
- Prof. Dr. Kader Konuk, Director of the Academy in Exile, University of Duisburg-Essen
- Jackie Thomae, Writer

Target Group

Applications are open to writers from Europe and the Mediterranean Region who are threatened or persecuted in their country of origin or residence.

Fellows of this programme may be one of the following:

- Persons holding a residence permit enabling them to do freelance work in Germany
- Asylum seekers in the process of applying for asylum holding a residence permit or proof of arrival in Germany

Application Documents:

Applications may be submitted in German or English. Please format and label your documents as described.

Mandatory application documents (maximum size 10 MB):

- CV in table format including prizes and fellowships (max. 2 A4 pages, file format: pdf. Please choose the following filename: Name_First Name_CV)
- Brief description of your personal situation (max. 2 A4 pages, file format: pdf. Please choose the following filename: Name_First Name_Statement)
- List of published and unpublished works (file format: pdf. Please choose the following filename: Name_First Name_Catalogue_of_Works)
- Reading sample (selected text of max. 2,000 words, file format: pdf. Please choose the following filename: Name_First Name_Sample)

Umlauts, special characters and blank spaces are not permissible in file names.

Please address your application by email under the subject-line "Torschreiber" to:

Ms. Caroline Armand

Email: caroline.armand@stiftungbrandenburgertor.de

The application deadline is August 31, 2021.

www.stiftungbrandenburgertor.de

www.allianz-kulturstiftung.de