

EIGHT ACADEMY IN EXILE FELLOWSHIPS FOR AFGHANS AT RISK

Academy in Exile invites Afghans at risk to apply for 24-month fellowships at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin, the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) in Essen, the Freie Universität Berlin, and the Universität Duisburg-Essen. Eligible are Afghans working in the humanities, social sciences, law, journalism, and the arts, who are at risk because of their professional work and/or civic engagement in human rights, democracy, and the pursuit of free speech. *Academy in Exile* fellowships provide recipients with the opportunity to reestablish themselves in Germany and to work on their own project in a multidisciplinary environment. Fellows contribute to the research agenda and intellectual profile of *Academy in Exile* and participate in affiliated research projects.

Created in 2017, *Academy in Exile* preserves and cultivates critical scholarship that is threatened or delegitimized in countries around the world. *Academy in Exile* is a consortium of the [University Duisburg-Essen](#), the [Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut](#) (Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities / KWI) in Essen, the Berlin-based [Forum Transregionale Studien](#), and the [Freie Universität Berlin](#). To date, *Academy in Exile* has supported 56 scholars at risk with long-term fellowships, emergency stipends, and guest professorships.

The eight new fellows, funded by a grant from the [Volkswagen Foundation](#), will be affiliated with the Universität Duisburg-Essen, KWI in Essen, Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin or Freie Universität Berlin. Applications will be assessed by the AiE Council and Advisory Board in consultation with a pool of country experts, and evaluated according to academic merit, risk assessment, and suitability for the research and artistic programs at the Forum, FU Berlin, UDE, and KWI, as well as *Academy in Exile*.

Barring delays due to the COVID pandemic, fellowships may start as early as January 2022. The monthly stipend amounts to 2,500 EUR. In addition, *Academy in Exile* covers the cost of health insurance.

Precluded from applying is anyone (either themselves or via marriage) who has dual citizenship or permanent residency in a safe country. Since this program is intended for Afghans at acute risk, eligibility is restricted to applicants in Afghanistan or who have been out of the country for a maximum of two years.

Please submit your application by 10th November 2021 in the following order:

- completed applicant information form (Available for download [here](#))
- a letter that explains your motivation for applying to *AiE*, including the current circumstances of your risk and/or exile status. No proof or letter from a third party is required. However, if you are registered with Scholars at Risk Network, IIE-Scholar Rescue Fund or CARA, please indicate so in your letter;
- a short rationale if you would prefer to be affiliated with the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut in Essen, Universität Duisburg-Essen, FU Berlin or the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin;
- a three-page proposal for work that is to be undertaken during the fellowship;
- an updated curriculum vitae (with a list of publications or exhibitions, as applicable);
- a published journal article or book chapter, work sample or example from a portfolio.

Please submit your application to academyinexile@uni-ude.de as one PDF and name the file as follows: surname_first name. All applications will be dealt with in strict confidentiality. Encrypted communication will be used. For more information, visit: <https://www.academy-in-exile.eu/>



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The **Turkish Studies Department** at the **Universität Duisburg-Essen**. Its multiple disciplines and research areas reflect the multilingualism and ethnic and religious plurality of Turkey and Germany. The Turkish Studies Department constitutes the largest department of its kind outside of Turkey and offers a degree program that is unique in Germany. The department initiated the *Academy in Exile* in order to foster internationalization and protect knowledge at risk.

The Berlin-based **Forum Transregionale Studien** promotes the internationalization of research in the humanities and social sciences. It provides scope for exchange, debate, and communication across national, regional or cultural borderlines. In cooperation with universities and research institutes in and outside of Berlin, the Forum appoints Fellows from all over the world, develops formats of transregional communication, and engages in research programs and initiatives that examine contemporary questions in a comparative and inclusive manner. The Forum currently engages in the research programs: Europe in the Middle East— the Middle East in Europe (EUME), Prisma Ukraina: Research Network Eastern Europe, and re:constitution - Exchange and Analysis on Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe. It is part of the consortium of EUTIM: Europäische Zeiten / European Times – A Transregional Approach to the Societies of Central and Eastern Europe, MECAM: Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb, and a founding member of the *Academy in Exile*.

The **KWI** (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut / Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities) is an interdisciplinary research center following the tradition of international Institutes for Advanced Study. In its role as an inter-university institution connecting the Ruhr University Bochum, the TU Dortmund University, and the University of Duisburg-Essen, the institute cooperates with researchers and scientists from its neighboring universities as well as other partners from the federal state NRW and places in and outside of Germany. Within the Ruhr area, the KWI is a place to share and discuss the questions and findings of ambitious research with interested parties from the city and the greater region.

The **Freie Universität Berlin** is among the leading universities in Germany and joined the *Academy in Exile* consortium as part of its efforts to support scholars at risk. It hosts *Academy in Exile's* Critical Thinking Residency Program. While pursuing independent research, *AiE* fellows at the Freie Universität also participate in public lectures and workshops to evaluate the history of critical thinking, its relationship to policies of higher education, and its renewed relevance today. As a distinctive feature of this program, fellows contribute to a teaching- across-borders initiative and are encouraged to join existing affiliated research projects. Freie Universität Berlin was the first German university to join the Scholars at Risk program and also hosts the transnational mentoring program, *Academics in Solidarity*.

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Academy in Exile is funded by anonymous donors and

