

Mecila: Fellowships FAQ

Q: Who can apply for a fellowship?

A.1: Junior fellowship: A junior fellow holds a PhD degree in the humanities or social sciences obtained within the last five years from the date of application and shows a promising track record of training, research, and / or publication in Mecila's subject areas. If there is more than a year of difference between the date on which all requirements for the degree were fulfilled and the date on which the degree was awarded, the first date is considered.

A.2: Senior fellowship: Applications are welcome from scholars from the field of humanities and social sciences who have a senior position at a university or research institution and/or a track record of relevant research and publications in subjects linked to Mecila's research programme.

Q: What is the expected composition of a Thematic Research Group?

(Does not apply to Individual fellowships.)

A: In order to meet funding requirements, two fellows in the Thematic Research Group need to be affiliated with a research institution in Germany, and one fellow needs to come from one of Mecila's consortia institutions.

Q: Will this fellowship be conducted digitally or in person?

A: It depends on how the pandemic evolves. The work in presence in São Paulo will start during the Brazilian academic year 2022 (March 1, 2022 - November 30, 2022) as soon as the research institutions there re-establish the work in presence. If the situation does not allow for in-person meetings, fellows will collaborate digitally.

Q: What is the amount paid for a fellowship?

A: It depends on the fellow's professional situation:

If the fellow is on unpaid sabbatical leave, the fellowship is oriented on their documented regular professional income, observing certain maximum limits.

If the fellow continues to receive their professional pay (e.g. a paid sabbatical), they will receive the allowances mentioned below in the case of in-person fellowships.

If the fellow continues to receive part of their professional pay (e.g. one of two part-time positions offers a paid sabbatical, the other one an unpaid sabbatical), they will

receive the equivalent of the shares of their documented professional income that were dispensed with and, in the case of in-person fellowships, the allowances mentioned below.

If the Fellow does not currently hold a position, the fellowship is calculated according to the average salaries for similar positions at their current places of residence or last employment.

Mecila can pay for a replacement at the fellow's institution (buy-out), observing certain maximum limits, if they are released from their teaching and other institutional duties during the fellowship period.

In-person fellowship allowances in São Paulo: Mecila will pay additional allowances for housing, purchase power parity (if applicable), and family allowance, according to individual circumstances. Travel costs (for the fellow and family members) will be covered by Mecila.

Q: Which further benefits does the fellowship entail?

A: Besides the access to an international community of excellent engaged scholars and a collaborative, interdisciplinary atmosphere, they will receive academic and administrative support. For the duration of the fellowship, all fellows will benefit from Mecila's digital infrastructure. This includes access to Mecila's Research Data Management and the specialised Mecila Library, where proposals for book purchases are welcome.

Q: Will I have a workspace in São Paulo?

A: Mecila provides workspaces for in-person fellowships. Senior Fellows will be based at [CEBRAP](#), in the neighbourhood of Vila Mariana. Junior Fellows will have their office, at the [Centro de Difusão Internacional](#) building at the USP's Butantã campus, located on front of the School of Communications and Arts (ECA).

Q: Is it possible to receive Mecila's fellowship while engaging in other research or professional activities?

A: Mecila's fellowship requires exclusive dedication and a formal confirmation that fellows are released from their teaching and other institutional duties during the fellowship period.

Q: What are Mecila's working languages?

A: Official events and the general colloquium are conducted in English but Portuguese and Spanish are also used in smaller groups and in informal communication.

Q: Does Mecila provide housing for the fellows in São Paulo?

A: No, Mecila and its affiliated institutions do not provide housing for the fellows. However, our fellow's assistant will help you in locating suitable accommodations and with any needs you and your family might have.

Q: How is the evaluation process for the fellows structured?

A: After an initial screening based on formal criteria, applications are reviewed by a Principal Investigator and an external reviewer. Shortlisted candidates are invited for interviews with Mecila's directors and ranked. The Executive Board and the Advisory Board make the final decision. The final decision also takes into account aspects such as fellows' intersectional positionality and equilibrium in terms of gender, disciplines, and regions.