

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. Time dedicated to parental or other relevant care duties will be taken into account. 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.

A.3: Narratives of Urban Conviviality-Inequality: The applicants need to fulfil the same requirements as the Junior Fellows and have a proven expertise in collaborative research. Applicants should hold 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. Time dedicated to parental or other relevant care duties will be taken into account.

Q: What are Thematic Fellowships?

A: The thematic fellowships should make a significant contribution not only to the general research programme of Mecila, but also to the specific annual theme. For further details see the call on our website.

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

A: It depends on how the pandemic evolves. If sanitary conditions allow, the work in presence in São Paulo will start during the Brazilian academic year 2024 (March 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024).

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 observing certain maximum limits.

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.

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, observing certain maximum limits, if they are released from their teaching and other institutional duties during the fellowship period.

Housing allowances in São Paulo: Mecila may pay additional allowances for housing to those who do not live in São Paulo already. According to the funding rules of the Merian Centres, no other financial support (family, childcare, or similar) can be provided.

Q: (Urban Narratives Fellowship) Which budget will be provided for the outreach workshop?

A: For the Urban Narratives Fellowship, the Fellow will benefit from a solid budget to invite up to three of their collaborators in the arts or activism to actively design and conduct the transfer workshop together. If they are free-lancers, their activities for the

workshop will be remunerated and their travel expenses paid according to the Travel Reimbursement Regulations of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany.

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 both at [CEBRAP](#), in the neighbourhood of Vila Mariana, and 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 assistants 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. Short-listed 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.

Q: Is it possible to do field research in Brazil or Latin America during the fellowship?

A: Apart from two weeks of vacation in July, Fellows are expected to spend most of their time at the Centre in Sao Paulo during the fellowship and to devote themselves to the theoretical and methodological development of their project. They can take advantage of the many research opportunities in Sao Paulo's institutions and archives.