

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.

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 show 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.4: Thematic Fellowships: The Junior and Senior applicants need to fulfil the same requirements as the Junior or Senior Individual Fellow applicants and have a track record of relevant research on the yearly theme of Mecila.

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: Since March 2022 all Fellowships are conducted in presence in São Paulo.

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.

If the fellow continues to receive part of their professional pay, 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 previously held academic positions at their last institution or the corresponding salary scale of the University of São Paulo according to their seniority.

If the fellow continues to receive professional pay, 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.

Housing allowances in São Paulo: Mecila will pay an additional allowance for housing to those who do not live in São Paulo already.

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 from the home institution that fellows are released from their teaching, research, and all 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, according to each group's specificity.

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 can help you in finding a suitable accommodation.

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

A: After an initial screening made by our directors, applications are reviewed by a member of Mecila and by 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.