

Call for Proposals: PICAIS Research-in-Residence Fellowships at the University of Passau, Germany
Application deadline: 15 May 2026
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The Passau International Centre for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies is the University's central platform for academic excellence and interdisciplinary research. It promotes research aligned with the University's [research profile](#), supporting interdisciplinary project ideas that break new ground in terms of the topics examined and the methods employed. The centre is dedicated to the advancement of early career as well as established researchers and the creation of opportunities for network-building and interdisciplinary cooperation. PICAIS attracts international visiting scholars to Passau and integrates them into the University's academic community.

PICAIS invites applications for a visiting position at the University of Passau. It will fund full-time fellowships for short-term research stays of at least two months (preferably longer) and up to six months in duration. In cases where there are reasonable grounds for even longer visits, exceptions are possible: Longer stays are in fact preferred and can be split over several visits if well justified. The funding period will be arranged individually for each application.

The programme's main objectives are to create a free working space, support joint research projects, enhance early career training and promote interaction between our invited fellows and local researchers. Our goal is to enhance interdisciplinary cooperation and establish national and international networks. **Fellowship applications must, therefore, be endorsed by a member of the University of Passau, who will act as the host. The significance of the cooperation planned as part of the fellowship should be highlighted in a letter of support from the host.**

The fellowship programme caters to internationally established researchers as well as to promising junior researchers at the postdoctoral stage who are pursuing academically excellent, innovative research projects and are not members or employees of the University of Passau at the time of application or until the start of the fellowship. Any previous employment at the University of Passau must date back at least three years. The programme is open to applicants from all disciplines represented at our University, including the humanities, social sciences, business studies, economics, law, computer science and mathematics. The call is open to all research topics and methodologies.

Whilst there is no restriction on research topics, the applicant's research topic must be supported by a host and priority is given to topics that are related to one or more of our [University's research profile](#), consisting of established and emerging research areas:

Established research areas

- Cybersecurity and Data Protection
- Digital Platforms
- Resilient Democracies
- AI and Language

Emerging research areas

- Sustainable Transformation
- Integrated Health
- European Identities

The current call invites applications for the years 2026 and 2027.
The application deadline is **Friday, 15 May 2026**.

For the fellows, the programme offers outstanding research conditions in an inspiring environment. Most of the University's buildings are located on an award-winning urban campus, and everything is within walking distance. The city itself, Passau, which has the bynames 'City of Three Rivers' and 'Bavarian Venice' due to its Renaissance Italian flair, is widely considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in Germany. It is situated in Lower Bavaria, in the southern foothills of the Bavarian Forest, close to Austria and the Czech Republic.

Our fellows are crucial to the centre's intellectual life and enjoy the freedom to focus on their own research projects and push forward their ideas in beautiful surroundings.

Funding

During their time here, PICAIS fellows have:

- full access to all University services
- a fully equipped office space
- access to the university computer network
- general access to the communal facilities and common room areas

Fellows receive a full-time fellowship, paid as a lump sum, which covers:

- accommodation and living expenses in Passau
- travel expenses/mobility allowance
- a contribution towards research costs.

The fellowship stipend depends on the applicant's country of residence and the length of stay.

Visiting fellows will conduct research and engage in the centre's programme, e.g. by holding a lecture, talk or workshop at least once during their time in Passau. The fellowship is predominantly designed to be completed in residence. Organisational matters and the work plan for the stay must be outlined in the proposal (sections B and D).

The PICAIS office, the Welcome Centre, the University's administrative services and the host at the University will support our fellows during their research stay at PICAIS.

Please see our funding guidelines [online](#) for details on funding.

Application Details

If you are interested in a PICAIS Research-in-Residence Fellowship and in visiting the University of Passau, please send your application to the PICAIS office
 → by using the [application form](#) provided and
 → by sending an email to picaiss@uni-passau.de.

The deadline for proposals is Friday, 15 May 2026.

Your proposal should not exceed 10 pages in sections A to D (Arial 11 pt, 1.2 pt line spacing, cf. template [online](#)) and must include the following six parts:

| | | |
|---|---|--------------------|
| A | Applicant's details | up to 4 pages |
| B | General information , planned host and date of your research visit(s), lay abstract | |
| C | Proposal , complete with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research programme that you propose to undertake during your visit • rationale for your visit and your proposed working programme • how your research will benefit from being undertaken at PICAIS • your contribution to academic life at the University of Passau | up to 5 pages |
| D | Budget estimate including details for the estimated amount of the lump-sum compensation required for the fellowship stay (cf. the information leaflet on flat fees and the Funding section in the Funding Guidelines) | 1 page |
| E | Curriculum vitae | no page limitation |
| F | Letter of support from the host (a member of the University of Passau) stating the intended contribution of the fellowship and research stay to the University of Passau | no page limitation |

The application must be submitted in English and as Word or PDF document (please do not submit scans of your application form). The letter of support can be submitted in English or German.

Page limitations may not be exceeded in sections A through D; however, there are no page limitations or specific formatting requirements for the curriculum vitae and the letter of support (cf. E and F above).

Selection Criteria

PIC AIS is in charge of carrying out the application and selection procedure. The proposals are evaluated on a competitive basis by members of the [Research Advisory Board](#), and, if deemed necessary, by additional external reviewers.

We will seek reasonable social and intellectual diversity in our fellowship cohorts. We especially intend to increase the number of female researchers to promote gender equality.

The following criteria will be considered in the review process:

- 1) Quality and feasibility of the proposed project
- 2) Research profile of the applicant
- 3) Contribution to the University of Passau

The selection process is typically completed within eight weeks after application deadline.

Contact

For more information on the fellowship programme, the application process and funding guidelines, you can contact the PIC AIS office directly or visit our [website](#). If you have any further questions, please get in touch with:

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