

# FELLOWSHIPS 2026/27

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## **Fellowships for the Fellow Year 2026/2027:**

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- a) Focus on issues in the general field of International Politics or**
- b) Focus on Structural Transformations as Challenge and Chance for Politics, Economy, and Society**

The Academy of International Affairs North Rhine-Westphalia (AIA NRW) offers fellowships for outstanding scholars and practitioners in Bonn, the German UN-City, to conduct projects that focus on important questions in the field of international politics. AIA NRW provides a professional platform and unique environment that fosters dynamic and vibrant exchange in an international, interdisciplinary setting.

We invite both senior and younger scholars (post-doc level and upwards) from all academic disciplines and practitioners from politics, diplomacy, media, business and civil society to apply for **fellowships with a duration between three and ten months at AIA NRW in Bonn.**

### **Project Proposals**

We are interested in innovative projects that

- a) focus on issues in the general field of International Politics or**
- b) address issues of Structural Transformations as Challenge and Chance for Politics, Economy, and Society**

In nearly all regions of the world, major societal, technological and economic shifts are taking place and challenge established ideas and policy solutions. Beyond such immediate crises as large scale conflicts and the erosion of global governance institutions, international politics are shaped by the relationship between geopolitical shifts and domestic as well as transnational developments, often in the form of major structural changes.

Structural transformations are one of the greatest challenges for economies and societies. They manifest themselves in many different dimensions such as energy security, new technologies, new models of energy production and consumption, the transformation of basic infrastructures and the re-organisation of societies to adapt to and drive these changes, while new challenges keep arising. Nothing less than the future viability of societies and economies is at stake.

AIA NRW aims to initiate discussions and collaborations that reflect on the key issues of and develop innovative approaches to challenges of viable structural transformations. Projects proposed by applicants should identify and systematically explore how states and other stakeholders address structural transformations across policy fields, how new knowledge is generated and how actors cooperate or compete with others for resources and strategies. Contributions can draw on debates related to

the role of energy security, critical infrastructures, supply chains, green and de-growth, aging societies, digitalisation, new technologies, and others.

**Applications that address the focus topic or other vital questions in the field of International Politics are welcome.** Both individual and tandem projects can be considered.

Applicants can apply to one of the following two tracks:

(a) **Academic Track**

For projects that have an explicit academic focus, linking up to ongoing or emerging academic debates, and provide a clear objective on how they contribute to a better understanding of international politics.

(b) **Practitioner's Track**

For projects that reflect on international politics from the perspective of practical experience in a relevant professional field and provide a clear objective on how they contribute to a better understanding of international politics.

## Application

### Applicants need to submit

(a) form for applicants **AND**

(b) the following documents compiled in one PDF:

(1) a letter of motivation;

(2) a proposal of their envisaged academic project at AIA NRW (max. 5 pages including an abstract; including guiding (research) questions, a brief summary of the state of research in the respective field, a specific work plan/timetable and targeted outputs as well as the expected added value of the stay in Bonn in the particular environment of AIA NRW);

(3) a short CV (max. 2 pages).

### Additionally for the academic track:

(4) a complete list of publications, and

(5) electronic copies of 2-3 recent (journal) publications.

## Conditions at AIA

AIA NRW's fellowship programme is committed to bringing together academics and practitioners for a lively and meaningful exchange and offers excellent academic and administrative support. Fellowships can take the form of paid/unpaid leaves, compensation costs paid to the home institution, or a stipend on the basis of the applicant's current income. AIA NRW provides accommodation for the fellows and their families and covers travel expenses to and from Bonn. Fellows are allocated with office space and the necessary infrastructures to conduct their projects as well as some further funding for research expenses.

## Expectations

Fellows are expected to reside in Bonn during their fellowship, i.e. for no less than three consecutive months. A regular attendance of research group meetings and colloquia, participation in events and willingness to contribute to the publication series are further requirements.

Applications need to be submitted to [application@aia-nrw.org](mailto:application@aia-nrw.org) by **29 June 2025**. Decisions will be taken by the Academic Board and will be communicated until early October.

This call is for fellowships in the **period between April 2026 and March 2027**.

The applications must be submitted  
by **29 June 2025**.

The Director of the  
Academy of International Affairs NRW

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