



European
University
Institute

Max Weber Postdoctoral Programme



International Postdoctoral Fellowships

Economics, History, Law, and Political and Social Sciences
Florence, Italy

Who?

The Max Weber Fellowships are open to candidates of any nationality whose Ph.D. thesis has been submitted and accepted for defence at the time of the start of the programme (1 September). Candidates are eligible during the five-year period following the successful completion of their doctorates. Fellowships are for one or two years.

What?

The Max Weber Programme of the European University Institute is the largest international postdoctoral programme for young researchers in the social sciences and humanities. The Fellowships are designed for young researchers who want not only to take advantage of a period of concentration on their research, but also to enhance their academic practice in a very active and multidisciplinary environment. The Max Weber Programme opened its doors to the first cohort of international postdoctoral Fellows in September 2006. The Programme is funded by the European Commission (DG Education and Culture) which grants over 40 MWP Fellowships. To these are added a number of self-funded Fellows who are selected according to the same selection criteria. All Fellows are affiliated with one of the EUI departments and are welcome to participate in departmental activities. The Programme uses English as its common working language. The MWP enjoys the participation of leading international scholars and professionals in a number of Max Weber Programme activities, such as the monthly Max Weber Lecture Series.

Why?

The aim of the Max Weber Programme is to set standards of excellence in research and academic practice and, in doing so, to become a stepping stone in the early development of a fruitful academic career for the Max Weber Fellows.



Academic Careers Observatory

The Academic Careers Observatory has been developed as part of the Max Weber Programme, in order to assist young scholars in enhancing their academic occupation prospects. The Observatory is an online resource for scholars at any stage in their careers. The website provides a comparative framework for reflection on the state of affairs of academic careers in the Social Sciences and Humanities in Europe and elsewhere.

Excellence in research requires an international frame of reference. Mobility in the academic profession is key for higher education institutions to play a leading role in the global knowledge economy. Max Weber Fellows and the EUI doctoral researchers are proof of such internationalization. Yet most academic careers follow national patterns and important information is not always accessible. Moreover, adequate and efficient research funding represents a determining factor for academic advancement. Again, inadequate access to information seems to pervade the most popular schemes. In order to fill these gaps, the Academic Careers Observatory offers exhaustive, comparative information. Career curricula, salary levels, degree of openness and practical information on the academic profession in a variety of national settings are the website's backbone. Additionally, the Observatory serves as a job search tool providing links to the major job platforms as well as lists of available funding opportunities for scholars. The Observatory organises international conferences and collaborates with the main European research associations to discuss and evaluate academic careers and research funding schemes.

The Observatory operates on an interactive basis. Users are strongly encouraged to access the website, send comments and provide useful information.

Visit the Observatory at:

www.eui.eu/AcademicCareersObservatory/



European University Institute

The European University Institute is one of the world's leading academic institutions for postgraduate studies in the social sciences. The EUI was founded in 1972 by the European Community member states to provide advanced academic training and to promote research at the highest level. Since then, the EUI has expanded considerably and now hosts an academic community of about 800 Ph.D. researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and professors. The EUI community of postdoctoral fellows includes Jean Monnet Fellows, Marie Curie Fellows, and Max Weber Fellows. The MWP is the largest postdoctoral programme in the social sciences in the world.

'My two years at Villa La Fonte were truly unforgettable. I had the opportunity to be part of a vibrant community of engaging, committed, inspiring early-career scholars, receive training in academic practice and interdisciplinary research, with the constant support of the Programme staff. The Max Weber Programme, and the EUI more generally offer an excellent international academic environment [...] and all this is fuelled with wonderful food and wine—does that really need any further comment?'

Miriam Ronzoni, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Advanced Studies 'Justitia Amplificata - Rethinking Justice', Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main, Max Weber Fellow 2008-2009, Visiting Max Weber Fellow 2009-2010

'The Max Weber Programme is like all the good things in life: the further away they are, the more you realize how good they were. Here are three situations that make me feel this way. First, whenever I update my webpage provided by the Max Weber Programme, which I still use. Second, whenever I meet a Fellow, even if she is from a different year - we share a few memories and I feel part of a large and growing community. And finally, whenever I recognize how much I have broadened my understanding outside my field of specialization. In a nutshell, the Max Weber Programme gives you practical support, companionship and knowledge.'

Alexander Kriwoluzky, Junior Professor, University of Bonn, MWP Fellow 2008-2009

'I went to Villa La Fonte in the hope of accomplishing some postdoctoral research, but I soon realized that the year held many more opportunities: from the stimulating academic practice training, to inspiring discussions with faculty, researchers and fellows, to the unforgettable experience of living in one of the most delightful cultural and culinary contexts. [...] I will keep the close and lasting friendships with a wonderful group of scholars as the most-treasured souvenir of this year.'

Silja Häusermann, Lecturer at the University of Zürich, Max Weber Fellow 2008-2009

'The Max Weber Programme is unique...[...] Villa La Fonte is probably the best place in Europe, and possibly the world, to be inspired and this inevitably leads to academic excellence. In addition, the international setting not only of the Max Weber Programme but of the EUI as a whole contributes to this very special experience, which has a lasting impact on any career.'

Nikolaos Lavranos, Senior Policy Advisor for Bilateral Investment Treaties, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Max Weber Fellow 2008-2009

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