



An aerial photograph of a university campus. The image shows several large, historic buildings with tiled roofs and arched windows. A central courtyard is visible, surrounded by greenery and trees. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

INTERNATIONAL VISEGRAD
FUND
AND
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE

RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME for the consultation
of primary sources at the Historical Archives
of the European Union

On 10 February 2021, Ambassador Edit Szilágyiné Bátorfi, Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund (IVF) and Professor Renaud Dehousse, President of the European University Institute, signed an agreement establishing the IVF's postgraduate research grant programme on European integration.

Under the scheme, young scholars from the IVF's member states, the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership region may apply to conduct research at the HAEU, where the archival memory of European integration is preserved.

Up to ten postgraduate grants will be funded over the period 2021 and 2022. To the extent that travel to Florence is permitted under current pandemic measures, grant recipients will be allowed to carry out their research on-site, benefitting also from the international scholarly community of the EUI. However, the HAEU also shall offer the digitalisation of archival files needed by researchers on demand, thus ensuring operational continuity of the grant programme.

This first formal agreement between the two institutions marks an important milestone in the relationship between the EUI and the IVF.

"I am delighted to sign this agreement with the International Visegrad Fund," stated EUI President Dehousse. "Welcoming more young academics from Central Europe and neighbouring countries to the EUI to study the history of European integration represents a fantastic opportunity for the Institute to achieve one of its key priorities: building closer links with scientific communities in these countries. While conducting research at the Historical Archives of the European Union, these scholars will enrich and diversify the EUI's research community."

"We strongly believe our funding will offer the opportunity not only to V4 scholars but also to scholars and researchers who are citizens of the non-EU members states in the neighbourhood. As both the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkan regions are long-term priority targets for our grant and scholarship funding, this cooperation with EUI only complements our long-term efforts and is in full synergy with it," says Ambassador Bátorfi.

The International Visegrad Fund is an international donor organisation, established in 2000 by the governments of the Visegrad Group countries—Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia—to promote regional cooperation in the Visegrad region (V4) as well as between the V4 region and other countries, especially in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership regions. The Fund does so by awarding €8 million through grants, scholarships and artist residencies provided annually by equal contributions of all the V4 countries.

Purpose and Objectives

The grant programme provides young scholars from Central and Eastern Europe interested in European integration at large with a unique research experience in the HAEU embedded in the international scholarly community of the EUI in Florence. To address the challenges brought by the current health emergency, the HAEU offers the digitisation on demand of archival files needed by researchers, thus ensuring operational continuity of the grant programme also during the Covid pandemic.

Admission

The following candidates from Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, the Western Balkans, and the Eastern Partnership region, are eligible to apply:

- All current postgraduate students (master's and doctoral candidates);
- All postdoctoral researchers or university teachers who have completed a master's degree or doctorate within ten years preceding the date the application is submitted and who currently hold an academic appointment.

Successful applicants will prepare a publication (thesis, dissertation, book or scholarly article) relating to European integration in any of the disciplines of human and social sciences (e.g. law, history, political science, economics, sociology, public administration).

Research projects presented by postgraduate students or postdoctoral researchers should preferably relate directly to their master's or doctoral field of research.

In view of the languages used in European Union archival documents, candidates should have a sound knowledge of English and basic knowledge of French.

Application Procedure and Deadline

The grant programme for 2021-2022 comprises two deadlines for applications per year, one on 30 April and the other on 31 October.

Applications must be sent by e-mail to the Historical Archives of the European Union at archiv@eui.eu. Confirmation that an application has been received will be sent by e-mail within one week.

Applications and supporting documents must be submitted in either English or French. The research itself and subsequent publications may be in the language chosen by the grant holder.

Complete application files should include:

a detailed presentation of the research proposal, including a description of the research subject, its academic significance and its contribution to research in the field, any previous academic work performed in the field of study, and the proposed research methodology and timetable (five pages maximum);

a detailed annotated bibliography of sources and studies related to the research (five pages maximum);

a justification of the need to use the HAEU archival holdings in Florence;

a statement of the applicant's plans for scholarly publication of the research results;

a list of the applicant's previous publications (no more than 10);

a letter of recommendation from a professor of a university or university-level research institute, providing an evaluation of the scholarly significance of the project and an assessment of the candidate's qualifications, abilities and motivation to carry out the proposed research.

Grant Awards

Successful applicants will receive a research grant of 5.000 € to cover all research expenses.

The grant will be paid in two instalments:

a first instalment of EUR 2,000 at the start of the research, as attested by the Director of the HAEU;

a second instalment of EUR 3,000 after the research results have been published by the grant holder and once the grant holder has informed the Director of the HAEU on the publication. The results must be published within 30 months after the grant has been attributed.

The publication shall be issued at the latest 36 months since the grant has been attributed.

Selection

The selection of candidates is organized by the HAEU in consideration of the quality of the application file, the significance and originality of the proposed research, the feasibility of the project, the candidate's ability to carry out the research, and the importance of using primary sources at the HAEU. The selection is based on equal treatment of applicants, i.e., without any discriminatory practices mainly due to nationality (ethnic origin), race, colour, religion or other beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation and gender of the applicants.

Publications and Commitments

Grant holders undertake to ensure that all subsequent publications or productions using in whole or in part the results obtained under the auspices of the research grant appropriately acknowledge the grant programme. In addition, they will provide the HAEU and the Fund with a copy of any such publications or productions.