



**INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
GROUP ON AUTHORITARIANISM
AND COUNTER-STRATEGIES**



FAQs

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Who can apply (prerequisites for applying)?

You can apply if you:

- are a citizen of one of the [ODA recipient countries](#).
- have successfully completed your PhD within the last 8 years;
- have a very good command of English, as English is the primary language used within the programme;
- have not resided in Germany continuously for more than 15 months at the time of application, unless you have been engaged in an academic activity during this time (e.g. PhD programme, Postdoc research, etc.).
- do not pursue any other full-time employment over the course of the fellowship. Please declare any part-time work you plan to carry out, including an estimate of the hours that you will dedicate to it, when submitting your application.

Can I participate if I am not a citizen of an ODA-recipient country?

Unfortunately no. The programme is explicitly aimed at citizens of [ODA recipient countries](#).

What language should my documents be written in?

Since communication within the programme is carried out in English, all documents must also be submitted in English. Please add an English translation to documents in any other language.

What happens if I can't submit evidence of my English abilities?

You should be able to prove at least a [C1 level](#) of English, unless it is your native language or you wrote your doctoral dissertation in English. If you do not have an official certificate, please provide written information regarding your language skills in a PDF.

Do I need to have a certified translation of my documents?

Non-certified copies of your degrees and supporting documentation will suffice for the application. Please note that we require a translation into English should the documents have been authored in a language other than English or German.

When does funding start?

Funding will commence in **April 2025**. If this is too early for you and you plan to start later, please state so in your application. Please note that due to funding stipulations funding definitely ends in December 2027. That means that if you start by April 2025, we can fund you for 33 months, if you start in May, we can fund only 32 months, and so on.

When am I expected to arrive in Potsdam?

We expect researchers to arrive at University of Potsdam until the start of the winter semester 2025/2026, which is October 2025. Please let us know if you have any inconveniences.

Am I expected to take part in the regular meetings and workshops?

Yes. The IRGAC is about exchange and collaboration with other researchers, so actively taking part in meetings, colloquia etc. is a fundamental part of the work.

Am I expected to be in Potsdam for the whole duration of the fellowship?

The programme is based at the University of Potsdam and most of our activities will happen there, but we do encourage research trips, conference participations etc.

Is it possible for me to teach at University of Potsdam?

Teaching is not mandatory, but we would welcome it a lot if researchers agreed to teach undergraduate or graduate seminars. If you consider teaching, please include this in your proposal (for example, in the outcomes).

Are travel costs covered, or is there additional funding for travel?

Travel costs for international meetings arranged by the IRGAC will be covered in full. We will also pay a monthly travel allowance of 100€ to cover for additional travel costs, to be spend at your consideration.

How exactly do I apply?

To submit your application, please send us an email to contact@irgac.org with all the documents as stated in our call for applications in one single PDF file no bigger than 6 MB. Please make sure that the filename is LastName_FirstName.pdf, and that the documents are in correct order.

When does the call for applications close?

Application deadline is February 15, 2025, 11:59 PM. Applications arriving after this date will not be considered.

What happens once I've applied?

The selection committee with members from the International research group on Authoritarianism and Counter-Strategies, the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences of the University of Potsdam, and the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung will evaluate all complete applications. The committee will meet at the beginning of March 2025 to take a final decision, and communicate the results until March 10.

When and how will I find out if I've been selected?

Notifications will be send out immediately after the decisions have been taken, latest until March 10.

Who can I speak to if I have further queries?

Please email us at contact@irgac.org.

Is my personal information secure?

Protecting your personal information is very important to us. You can find our data protection policy [here](#). If you are still concerned about anything, please contact us by email.

What happens with the documents I submit? Is the protection of my personal information guaranteed?

We guarantee that your personal information will only be passed on to people who are involved in the selection process. Documents provided by applicants who are not successful are kept on file for two years, after which they are destroyed.

I have not yet completed my PhD. Am I eligible for the programme?

Yes, as long as you complete your PhD before the start of the scholarship. If you have not yet completed your PhD, please enclose a statement from your doctoral supervisor together with your Master's degree (or comparable degree, e.g. diploma). Successful applicants must present a certified copy of their PhD certificate before the start of the scholarship.