

# AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

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## THE MELLON EAST-CENTRAL EUROPEAN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

### APPLICATION GUIDELINES

2009-2010

The American Academy in Rome is pleased to offer awards to East-Central European scholars through a program in cooperation with the Council of American Overseas Research Centers and supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Established in 1993, this program now serves Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian and Slovak scholars who have already obtained the Ph.D. or an equivalent degree at the time of application, and who wish to undertake a specific research project in Rome.

As many as three East-Central European scholars will be selected through a juried, open competition for three-month residencies at the American Academy in Rome. Awards are offered in the following fields:

- *Ancient Studies (through the 6<sup>th</sup> century)*
- *Medieval Studies (6<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries)*
- *Renaissance and Early Modern Studies (14<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries)*
- *Modern Italian Studies (18<sup>th</sup> century to the present)*

The Academy invites proposals in such disciplines as archaeology, history, the history of art and architecture, literature, philosophy and musicology. Note that these disciplines are intended to be suggestive, not exclusive. Any humanistic approach, or combination of approaches, to the fields will be given consideration. Furthermore, comparative projects and projects that cut across the conventional and arbitrary chronological limits listed above are welcome and will be examined by the selection committee.

Each Mellon East-Central European Research Fellow will be provided with room and board plus the euro equivalents of a \$ 4,100 stipend for the fellowship period, of \$800 for travel, and of \$1,000 for post-award research and publication expenses.

### ELIGIBILITY

All applicants for the Mellon East-Central European Research Fellowships must reside permanently in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania or Slovakia.

Applicants must have already obtained the Ph.D. or its equivalent at the time of application. Full-time students are not eligible for the award. Although the program remains primarily focused on first-time applicants, a scholar who has received a fellowship through this program may be eligible for a second fellowship from any of the participating institutions under certain compelling circumstances. Mellon East-Central European Research Fellows may hold other fellowships concurrently, as long as the requirements of such fellowships do not conflict with the Academy's fellowship rules. They may not hold full-time jobs in Rome during their residencies.

## DEADLINE

Applications must be postmarked by **1 April 2009** for residency periods beginning in the fall of 2009, and ending three months later. Applications should be mailed to the Academy's Rome address. Applications *will not be accepted* via facsimile (fax) machine.

## THE SELECTION PROCESS

From its Rome office, the Academy will conduct a juried, open competition to select the Mellon East-Central European Research Fellows. Excellence is the primary criterion for selection, based on the quality of the support materials submitted, the applicant's scholarly or academic achievements and potential for future achievement.

The jury will review all work submitted in the competition. Its recommendations will be presented to The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and to the Academy's Board of Trustees for review. The Academy's Board of Trustees will announce the winners in the spring.

## HOW TO APPLY

*All application materials must be submitted in English.* Complete applications consist of the following:

- the completed application form
  - a maximum of two supporting papers in the field of study the applicant plans to research in Rome (each paper must not exceed 20 typewritten pages, including bibliography and footnotes);
- and*
- two letters of recommendation from professionals who are acquainted with the applicant and his/her work. These letters should include:
    - information about the candidate's character, personality, ability and capacity for independent work;
    - a statement indicating any firsthand experiences with the candidate and his/her work; and
    - an estimation of the candidate's principal strengths and limitations.

## NOTES ON LIVING IN ROME

### *Housing*

Applicants should be aware that housing at the Academy resembles collegiate living. The Academy will provide a single room with private bath for each winner. A winner who wishes to be accompanied by a spouse may request a double room instead, and if one turns out to be available, the winner shall pay the additional cost. The Academy is not able to accommodate winners' children. All award recipients are strongly encouraged to learn Italian before they arrive in Rome.

### *Health Insurance*

Health insurance must be carried by all visiting scholars and by anyone accompanying them to Rome. Insurance policies must cover the term of the award and include a major medical plan that is valid in Western Europe.

## THE MELLON EAST-CENTRAL EUROPEAN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has a long tradition of support of education and research in the humanities in the United States and abroad. While the Foundation has made major contributions to universities and nongovernmental organizations in East-Central Europe and their partner U.S. universities and institutions, this is the first program directed at East-Central European scholars in the humanities.

The Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) coordinates the program for The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the participating institutions. CAORC represents fifteen member centers around the world. Among its purposes are: to act as an advocate for overseas research centers; to help expand their resource base and to raise the profile of the member centers; to strengthen collaboration among the centers; and to foster research projects across national boundaries. Thirteen other centers participate in the Mellon East-Central European program: the American School of Classical Studies at Athens; the Centre for Advanced Study in Oslo, Norway; the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbuttel, Germany; the Institute for Human Sciences in Wien, Austria; the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme in Paris; the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences in Wassenaar; the Superior Council of Scientific Research in Madrid, Spain; Villa I Tatti, the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies near Florence; the Warburg Institute in London; the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities in Edinburgh, Scotland; the American Research Institute in Turkey; the Wissenschaftskolleg Zu Berlin; and the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem.

## THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

The American Academy in Rome is a leading American overseas center for independent study and advanced research in the fine arts and humanities. Founded in 1894, the Academy was chartered by an act of Congress in 1905 in recognition of its contribution to America's intellectual and cultural life. At its principal site in Rome, the Academy operates a program of fellowships and residencies that has at its core the development of gifted American artists and scholars. Through related programs, such as the Mellon East-Central European Research Fellowships, the Academy's reach extends to an international community. From its New York office, the Academy administers the annual Rome Prize competition to select the Fellows, who are joined in Rome by other distinguished artists and scholars. The Academy also sponsors exhibitions, concerts, lectures and symposia in Rome and New York. A first-class research library, a series of summer programs, and projects in archaeology and publishing complement these activities, enabling the Academy to serve more than 3,000 people each year.

The Academy's central purpose is its Rome Prize fellowship program. Each year, through a national competition, the Academy awards fellowships in architecture, design arts, landscape architecture, historic preservation and conservation, musical composition, visual arts, archaeology, classical studies, history of art, modern Italian studies and post-classical humanistic studies. Each Rome Prize winner receives a stipend, room and board, and a study or studio in which to pursue independent work for six months to two years at the Academy.

The Academy's Rome Prize winners, Residents and Visiting Artists and Scholars form a residential community of 65 to 70 people. The stimulating discussions that naturally arise out of this multidisciplinary environment unite and strengthen this community. Artists and scholars also have the opportunity to foster their work through exchanges with members of the Italian and European artistic and scholarly communities. Since its founding, the Academy has awarded more than 1,700 fellowships and Residencies.

The Academy occupies eleven acres and twelve buildings atop the Janiculum, the highest hill within the walls of Rome. Its main building is one of the only structures outside North America designed by McKim, Mead & White, and it contains approximately 130 rooms, including most of the studios and residences of the Fellows, administrative offices, dining facilities and the library. In addition, there are exhibition galleries, a photographic archive, a darkroom, and a laboratory and storage areas for the Academy's archaeological excavations. The 17th-century Villa Aurelia, originally built for a Farnese cardinal, is the setting for conferences, public receptions, concerts and other programs. The Academy is an active publisher and maintains a research library of over 137,000 volumes in classical and humanistic studies.

Unlike the other 23 government-sponsored national academies in Rome, the American Academy in Rome is supported by private contributions, foundations, corporations, colleges and universities across the United States, and by the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities.