



Call for Applications: “Gerald Mader Fellowship”

Guidelines

Subject of the Fellowship

The Gerald Mader Fellowship is awarded by the Austrian Center for Peace (ACP) on behalf of the Province of Burgenland. For the first time, two fellowships will be granted, each with a total amount of 6,000 euros plus an additional 1,500 euros for travel expenses for a duration of six months. The fellowship supports highly qualified PhD students or postdoctoral researchers who have a connection to Burgenland. It offers doctoral candidates who are enrolled in a PhD program or researchers working within a postdoctoral program the opportunity to conduct research on peace-related topics and to publish a peer-reviewed article.

Requirements for the Fellowship

Fellowships are granted for scientific research during or after a doctoral program at universities addressing relevant topics within the thematic fields defined by the ACP.

Requirements

1. Applications must comply with the criteria specified in the call.
2. Only one application per person may be submitted.
3. No double funding: The proposed project must not receive funding from other sources. Applications submitted to other funding bodies must be disclosed. If funding is granted elsewhere, the application will be excluded from the selection process.
4. In the case of doctoral students, applicants must submit a letter of consent from the research institution where the project will be conducted. If the institution changes during the process, approval from the new institution must be submitted.
5. Applicants must demonstrate a connection to Burgenland, for example through:
 - residence in Burgenland,
 - a research topic related to Burgenland, or
 - institutional affiliation in Burgenland.



Application Procedure

Applications must be submitted by the applicant via email to the Austrian Center for Peace (ac4p@ac4p.at).

Required Documents:

1. Research proposal (exposé) describing the content of the research and the peace-policy relevance of the topic
2. Confirmation of acceptance by the educational institution or proof of admission to the doctoral program and approval of the dissertation project, for postdoctoral applicants a doctoral diploma
3. Timeline
4. Curriculum vitae and motivation letter

All submitted data will be used exclusively for the selection procedure.

Selection Process

Applicants may apply until 30 April 2026 with research topics within the specified thematic fields. Two fellowships will be awarded, both beginning on 1 September 2026. The fellowships will be awarded by a jury consisting of five representatives of the Province of Burgenland and the Austrian Center for Peace. Based on the criteria listed above, the jury will decide on the allocation within three months after the submission deadline.

Payment

The fellowship will be paid in monthly installments. If the research cannot be completed, the Austrian Center for Peace must be informed immediately. In this case, depending on the progress of the work, the fellowship may be partially or fully reclaimed by the ACP.

Deadline for Completion

The deadline for completing the research-related activities is a total of twenty-four months, including the duration of the fellowship. In exceptional cases an extension may be requested.



The written request for extension must explain the reasons for the extension and include a detailed timeline and results overview of the work completed so far as well as future plans.

Obligations during and after the Fellowship

As part of the fellowship, the recipients commit to working at the peace castle in Stadtschlaining and to actively communicating their research. This includes presenting the research topic at at least one conference or participating in at least one public panel discussion, as well as giving at least one lecture as part of an event in Stadtschlaining or at the Synagogue in Kobersdorf. Fellows are required to write a peer-reviewed article related to their research project, which must be published either during the fellowship or within eighteen months after its completion. Post-doctoral researchers are additionally required to prepare the publication of their dissertation in the form of a book. Proof must be provided within eighteen months after the end of the fellowship by submitting the published book.

Furthermore, fellows are required to acknowledge the Province of Burgenland and the Austrian Center for Peace as funders in their work and in all resulting publications and conference presentations, stating the support through the Gerald Mader Fellowship. After completing their work, fellows must provide the ACP with one copy free of charge and agree to a possible publication by the ACP publishing house or in ACP media, including on its website.

There is no legal entitlement to the award or to an extension of the Gerald Mader Fellowship.

Thematic Fields

The research project must address one of the following thematic areas.

1. Peace and Antisemitism Research

The first area focuses on peace and antisemitism research and examines the social and political engagement with antisemitism. The focus is not only on the analysis of antisemitic ideologies, practices and discourses but also on structural and systemic forms of antisemitism. The emphasis lies on the implications of these forms of antisemitism and their understanding within peace and conflict research. Funding is provided for dissertations and research that scientifically



examine systemic and structural manifestations of antisemitism and contribute to the critical reflection of historical and political responsibility in a pluralistic society. Interdisciplinary approaches and post-migrant research perspectives from history, political science, cultural studies or social sciences are explicitly encouraged. Research projects with a connection to Burgenland are particularly welcome.

2. Peace and Anti-Racism Research with a Focus on Ethnic Minorities

The second thematic field concerns peace and anti-racism research with a focus on ethnic minorities. This area deals with the legal, political and social significance of Article 7 of the Austrian State Treaty of 1955, which contains key provisions for the protection of Slovenian and Croatian minorities in Carinthia and Burgenland. It addresses both the current implementation of minority rights and the development of a democratic, anti-racist society that actively protects and promotes linguistic and cultural diversity. Funding is provided for dissertations or research that examine the historical development, current practice and future perspectives of minority protection in Austria. The focus includes constitutional foundations such as Article 7 as well as social and cultural aspects of inclusion, multilingualism and anti-racism. The combination of legal, political science, historical or sociological perspectives is particularly encouraged. Research projects with a connection to Burgenland are especially welcome.

3. International Peace and Conflict Research

The third thematic field focuses on international peace and conflict research. The area of international politics with a focus on peace is dedicated to the analysis and promotion of social justice and peace dynamics in a global context. Central topics include international cooperation, conflict prevention and civilian approaches to conflict transformation in peace processes. Funding is provided for dissertations or research dealing with peace policy issues within the context of international relations. Particularly encouraged are projects that contribute to addressing current global challenges, adopt interdisciplinary approaches or have practical relevance for international organizations. Research projects with a connection to Burgenland are particularly welcome.

The research activity must address a topic within one of these thematic fields.