

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS at the University of Geneva

**funded by the
Foundation for Interreligious and
Intercultural Research and Dialogue**

The Foundation for Interreligious and Intercultural Research and Dialogue (a private institution operating under Swiss law) aims to make a specific and positive contribution to the dialogue amongst faiths and cultures through a post-doctoral fellowship programme set up and funded by the Foundation at the **University of Geneva** (www.unige.ch), particularly in the **Autonomous Department of Protestant Theology and the Humanities Department**.

To promote the aforesaid aim, the Foundation offers research fellowships. For the academic year 2009-2010, the Foundation will grant at least three fellowships to young researchers having a doctorate, a background in one of the three monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam), and wishing to specialise in the field of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, with a view to highlighting “inexhaustible spiritual resources so as to overcome the divisions existing in the world and to ensure the peaceful coexistence of the peoples, social justice and human rights”.

AIMS

- To set up a research group comprising young researchers having roots in one of the three monotheistic religions: Jews, Christians and Muslims.
- On one hand, to promote a deeper understanding of others' way of thinking (in both their essential and evolving aspects) and, on the other hand, to work out models for thought and action that could engender and foster true comprehension amongst different religious traditions.
- To strengthen interaction and dialogue amongst post-doctoral researchers and amongst specialists
- To contribute to the interreligious and intercultural training of a generation of leaders called on to take strategic positions in the religious, social and political spheres and who will thus be prepared to respond to the intercultural and interreligious challenges they must face.
- To contribute to a better understanding of religions and the positive role they play.

THE PROGRAMME

- To enhance knowledge and the critical examination of the wellsprings of each religious tradition and then to acquire the linguistic and strategic tools needed

to study the normative scriptures of another religion (or one's own), far from syncretism or proselytism, and according to the programme set by each researcher; this programme implies **the attendance of courses or seminars** already offered by the various departments or centres of the University of Geneva, in English or French.

- To become involved in a joint undertaking through participation in a **bi-monthly seminar** organised especially for the researchers and dealing with a specific topic for which the Scientific Committee will be responsible and on which internationally known figures will be invited to speak.
- To conduct **independent research** in the field of peace studies under an academic supervisor. The research should contribute to a rapprochement of faiths (with the monotheistic religions having priority) and cultures, thanks to a better mutual acquaintance, opening new paths to dialogue and to the peaceful coexistence of religions and cultures. The research would lead to a paper.

BENEFICIARIES

The programme is open to **persons holding positions of responsibility in the sphere of religion and to researchers in the fields of theology, philosophy, history and the human sciences** as well as to those involved in peace-building, whose research will explore peace issues falling within the context of the monotheistic faiths - Jewish, Christian and Muslim.

COORDINATION AUTHORITY

The post-doctoral programme in the field of interreligious and intercultural dialogue is directed by a **Scientific Committee** composed of experts in one of the fields dealt with by the Foundation, to be chosen with care taken to maintain a balance amongst the three monotheistic religions. The Scientific Committee comprises:

- the Executive Director of the Foundation, in charge of coordinating the programme and having only consultative powers
- three members of the faculty of the University of Geneva, one of whom will be either an acting professor or a professor emeritus of the autonomous Department of Protestant Theology, appointed by the Rectorship
- three professors representing other academic institutions recognised by Judaism, Christianity and Islam in Switzerland and in the world more generally, appointed on the basis of agreement between the University Rectorship and the Council of the Foundation
- and three members of the Council of the Foundation, representing the three religious traditions.

APPLICATION

Candidates must submit a file containing the following documents:

- application for admission to the University of Geneva
[Demande d'immatriculation à l'Université de Genève
http://www.unige.ch/dase/immatriculation/Dem_Immat09_10_ok.pdf
- a letter explaining their reasons for wishing to be accepted for the Programme
- two letters of recommendation (one of which from a university professor under whom the candidate's post graduate studies were completed)

- a full curriculum vitae including: a description of the studies completed (with photocopies of the diplomas obtained), language proficiency (written and spoken) and publications.
- a detailed statement concerning the research work proposed. The project should contribute to developing knowledge in one field and the research should be suitable for completion within a twelve-month period.
- a medical certificate attesting to the candidate's sound health
- two passport-type photos

ADJUDICATION CRITERIA

- Interest in the dialogue amongst the three great faiths - Judaism, Christianity and Islam - and a background in one of these three traditions
- A doctorate (Ph.D or D.Th.) in one of the following fields: theology, philosophy, history or human sciences.
- A certification of proficiency in English and of good comprehension of French
- The age limit has been set at forty (40)
- Nationality: no restrictions
- Gender: no restrictions

WORKING LANGUAGES

The candidates' application files must be in either French or English, as must the research work and documents intended for publication.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY FELLOWSHIPS GRANTED BY THE FOUNDATION

The fellowship consists of an annual lump sum of CHF 35,000 as a maximum, distributed over a twelve-month period and managed by the Foundation to cover all of the Fellow's expenses: room, university enrolment fees, round-trip commuting fares (between places of residence and study), health insurance coverage for the duration of the fellowship and a stipend handled by the Fellow to cover meals, books, photocopies, pocket money etc.

PERIOD OF ALLOCATION: beginning in September 2009 and continuing until August 2010 (twelve months).

PUBLICATION

The Foundation will, moreover, have a fund at its disposal to cover the publication of the research deemed to be the most relevant, following an evaluation carried out upon completion.

AWARDING AUTHORITY

The Scientific Committee notifies the Council of the Foundation as regards the allocation of fellowships based on the candidates' files, publication credits and according to the Foundation's interests in the field of peace studies. The Committee is responsible for ensuring a balance as regards subject matter, geographical distribution and representation of the three religious traditions (one Jew, one Christian and one Muslim) in awarding the fellowships.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 15, 2009 for submission of complete files
Candidates will be notified of the outcome approximately four weeks after submission of the file.

THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (IN FIVE COPIES) SHOULD BE SENT TO:

The Secretariat

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CH-1206 Geneva, Switzerland

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E-mail adresse: fiirdge@gmail.com