

## **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](http://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 2015-2016, the Foundation will grant at least three fellowships to 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".

### **FELLOWSHIPS' AIMS**

- To set up a research group comprising researchers having roots in one of the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- On one hand, to promote a deeper understanding of others' way of thinking (in both their essential and evolving aspects with regards to their cultures and faiths) 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. The fellows will participate to informal interdisciplinary research groups either proposed or conducted by the FIIRD.
- To become involved in a joint undertaking through participation in a **bi-monthly seminar (compulsory)** organised especially for the researchers and dealing with a specific topic for which the Scientific Committee (as defined below) 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: 1) a rapprochement of faiths (with the monotheistic religions having priority) and cultures; 2) thanks to a better mutual acquaintance; 3) opening new paths to dialogue and 4) to the peaceful coexistence of religions and cultures. The research would lead to a paper.

## BENEFICIARIES

The fellowship 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 and social 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 supported 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 **both a digital and paper file** containing the following documents:

- An application for admission to the University of Geneva.  
[Document attached to call – or sent upon request at contact@fiird.ch].
- a letter of reference 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), with email and phone number to reach the professors.
- a full curriculum vitae including :
  - a description of the studies completed (add photocopies of the diplomas obtained), language proficiency (written and spoken) and publications.
  - a detailed statement (3-4 pages maximum) 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 copy of the diploma (Ph.D or D.Th).
  - List of graduate and post-graduate courses attended (for general information).
- a copy of the passport
- a medical certificate attesting to the candidate's sound health
- two passport-type photos.
- In 2015-2016, the themes that will have privileged attention are :
  - Interreligious dialogue in the Social Media;
  - Analytical concordance of common values to the three monotheistic religions.

### **WORKING LANGUAGES**

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

**If all application documents are in English, the candidate will add the letter of reference, as well as a summary of his research project (half a page) in French language.**

### **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.) - at the time of sending the application- in one of the following fields: theology, philosophy, history, or human and social sciences.
- A certification of proficiency in English and of good comprehension of French.
- The age limit has been set at forty (40) years.
- Nationality: no restrictions.
- Gender: no restrictions.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY FELLOWSHIPS GRANTED BY THE FOUNDATION**

The fellowship consists of an annual lump sum between CHF 33,800 to 36,566 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. (Fellows will reside in the studios of the Résidence Universitaire. After the payment of the rent by the Foundation, the residual scholarship is about 2100 CHF). Fellows must maintain adequate records of their expenses.

**PERIOD OF ALLOCATION:**

Beginning in September 2015 and continuing until August 2016 (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.

**ALUMNI**

The Levant Foundation is the principal sponsor of the FIIRD fellowship scholarships. The FIIRD fellow, when accepting the scholarship, will have to commit to a period of three years of active involvement in the Levant Foundation Alumni Program, such as writing an article per semester for the FIIRD, for The Levant Foundation or FIIRD website, keeping the FIIRD informed about their research activities and published articles, or attending a yearly conference. For this required participation, the Levant Foundation will bear all financial responsibility.

**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 in awarding the fellowships.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 31 January 2015 for submission of complete files.**

Candidates will be notified of the outcome approximately **six weeks** after submission of the file.

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

The Secretariat

**Foundation for Interreligious and Intercultural Research and Dialogue**

10, rue Albert-Gos

CH-1206 Geneva,

Switzerland

Tel: +41 76 639 52 69

Fax: +41 22 909 83 41

**THE REQUIRED DIGITAL DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO:**

**[contact@fiird.ch](mailto:contact@fiird.ch)**