

Frequently Asked Questions

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

National Autonomous University of Mexico's
Institute for Philosophical Research
June 2020

The following list contains some of the questions that UNAM's Institute for Philosophical Research (IIFs - UNAM) gets most frequently asked by applicants concerning its research fellowships. Do feel free to get in touch with the Institute via email (posdoc.iif@gmail.com) in case you have any other doubts.

- In what language can I present my application to the Institute?
The Institute accepts applications in either English or Spanish. However, those who have Spanish as their mother tongue, consider sending your request in Spanish. Applications in any other language will not be considered.
- When will the next call for applications be out?
The next call for applications will be issued in January 2021 and will end in February 2021. The Institute publishes two calls for applications per year, one during the Autumn semester and the other during the Spring semester. The Institute issues the Autumn semester call for applications in June and ends in August, and issues the Spring semester call for applications in January and ends it by the end of February.
- How can I send my letters of recommendation?
There are three ways in which the Institute can receive letters of recommendation. in favour of applicants. Letters of recommendation can be personally submitted by their authors to the email posdoc.iif@gmail.com.mx. They can also be submitted via Interfolio. Finally, they can also be submitted by the applicant's university of adscription personal via email.
- May I send my application in any way other than email?
No, you may not. The Institute only receives applications via email. Regular mail is not a possibility. Also, please, do not send the Institute complete applications via any another platform which is not personal email. By other platforms, we mean WeTransfer, Dropbox and the like. The only bits of application that the Institute can receive from another platform which is not email are the letters of recommendation in favour of applicants.
- How long does it take for the Institute to reach a decision?
It takes about a month and a half, and two months for the Institute to deliberate. Once the Institute has decided who will it postulate to UNAM's Coordination of Humanities as recipients of the research fellowships, then applicants will receive an email informing them whether their application dossiers have been selected or not.

- Are the research fellowships given to some preferred areas of philosophy over others?
No, they are not. We accept applications from all areas of philosophy. The need to support some areas of research over others at the Institute is a criterion that changes each semester. That is not the only criterion for choosing amongst all the received applications. There are other considerations such as the academic profile of the applicant (impact and quality of publications, letter of recommendation, research project), promotion of gender balance in the programme, amongst others. The Institute encourages researchers to send their application dossiers regardless of the area in which they specialise.
- Is there a preferred format to write the Cover Letter?
No, there is not. The Institute is interested to know about your research and the reasons why you are interested in a research fellowship there. Feel free to include information that may be pertinent for the Institute to know for its deliberation.
- Is there a need to send hard copies of any of the documents solicited?
No, there is not. All documents need to be sent electronically.
- Is there a format in which the CV needs to be given?
No, there is not. Do make sure to include your full name (as it appears in passport and birth certificate), contact phones (cell number, home, office) residential address, current job (if any), your areas of specialisation and interest, the name of the university, name and university of adscription of PhD thesis supervisor, and date in which your PhD degree was obtained (or expected date).
- Do I need to have a letter of recommendation authored by a researcher from the Institute?
No, you do not have to. You do not need to have ongoing collective work with any of the researchers to be considered as a recipient for the Institute research fellowships.
- If I have another source of income (from a scholarship or a job), is that a problem?
Yes, it is, and no, it is not. It is a problem to have such income only once you have been accepted as a fellow researcher at the Institute. You cannot have another source of income once your research fellowship starts. That is not a problem during your application process. You can be working or enjoying another scholarship while you are applying for our research fellowships.
- I have not defended my PhD dissertation yet, but I expect to do so soon. Can I still apply for the research fellowships?
Yes, you can. However, you need to have finished your PhD programme and/or defended your dissertation before the start of the research fellowship at the Institute. In the meantime, you need to send an official document issued by your university or your PhD supervisor stating the date of the expected conclusion of your PhD programme.
- To whom should the letter of recommendation be addressed?
The letters of recommendation in favour of applicants should be addressed
To:
Dra. María Teresa Rodríguez González
Head of Academic Affairs

Institute for Philosophical Research
National Autonomous University of Mexico.

- How should I send my application dossier to the Institute?
Your application dossier contains the documents required in our call for applications. Please check all the requested documents of our call for applications at the following link: <http://www.filosoficas.unam.mx>. All the required documents should be sent in one single email, in separate PDF files, each one clearly identified. We suggest the following names for each document.
 1. CV
 - 2.1 Article (Title)
 - 2.2 Article (Title)
 3. Research Project (Title)
 5. Workplan and timetable
 6. Cover Letter
 7. PhD Diploma
 8. Abstract of the PhD Dissertation and the list of derived publications (each one with a half-page abstract)In the parenthesis, you should write the required titles. Notice there is no point 4 since those are your letters of recommendation and applicants do not personally send those.
- How long does the research fellowship last?
The research fellowships last one year. The applicant's Timeline and Re-search Project should be planned considering that year. Fellow researchers may request to stay for another year just once after your first year. Then, a different Timeline and Research Project (ideally, a continuation of the one carried during the first year of the research fellowship) will be presented.
- When does the research fellowship start?
The research fellowships whose call for applications ended during the Autumn semester start on the 1st of March of the next year. The research fellowships whose call for applications ended during the Spring semester start on the 1st of September that year.
- On what could my modules be given?
The topics of the modules may be about the topics of your research project or topics of interest to UNAM's Philosophy Graduate Programme (www.posgrado.unam.mx/filosofia), or its Philosophy of Science Graduate Programme (www.posgrado.unam.mx/filosofiadelaciencia). The graduate programmes topics of interest could vary during your stay according to their needs.