



Leibniz Institute for  
**EAST AND SOUTHEAST  
EUROPEAN STUDIES**



YEREVAN  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

## CALL FOR APPLICATION

### Visiting Fellows Program 2026

#### at the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg, Germany

*Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD),  
Programme “East–West Dialogue”*

Fellowship Duration: Up to 3 months within 2026

Application Deadline: 20 June 2026

#### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS), Regensburg (Germany), in cooperation with the Faculty of Law at Yerevan State University (YSU), invites applications for incoming Visiting Fellowships within the DAAD-funded project **“Contested Spaces, Fragmented Orders: International Law in the South Caucasus.”**

The project explores how international law is interpreted, contested, and instrumentalized in contexts of conflict and political transformation, with a particular focus on Armenia and the South Caucasus. Bringing together international law, political science, and area studies, the project combines co-research, co-teaching, and capacity building between IOS Regensburg and YSU to foster interdisciplinary scholarship and academic exchange.

As part of the programme, the project will organise an Autumn School in Yerevan for ca. 20 students from Germany and Armenia from 30 September to 10 October under the working title “Contested Spaces, Fragmented Orders: International Law and Politics in the South Caucasus.”

#### ABOUT THE INSTITUTIONS

**The Faculty of Law at Yerevan State University**, founded in 1933–34, is Armenia’s leading institution for legal education and research. Its LL.M. Programme in International Courts and Arbitration, directed by Yeghishe Kirakosyan, provides advanced training in international dispute resolution, international courts, and arbitration.

**The Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS)** is a leading non-university research institution in Germany specialising in Eastern and Southeastern Europe. With around 35 academic staff members, IOS is among the largest and most established research institutions in the field of East and Southeast European Studies in Germany.

Since 2017, IOS has been a member of the renowned Leibniz Association. Through its multidisciplinary area studies approach, IOS combines expertise in history, economics, and political science. The Department of Politics, led by Cindy Wittke-Hohlfeld, connects international law with political science and area studies within an empirically grounded and interdisciplinary research framework.

## **FELLOWSHIP OBJECTIVES**

Visiting Fellows are expected to conduct an individual research project related to the programme themes, including the politics of international law, contested sovereignty, authoritarian legal strategies, and hybrid conflicts in the South Caucasus and the wider post-Soviet region. Research projects should engage with one or more of the following fields:

- international law;
- international relations;
- peace and conflict studies;
- security studies.

A regional focus on the South Caucasus and the post-Soviet region is particularly encouraged.

### *Research and Academic Engagement at IOS*

During their stay at IOS Regensburg, Fellows are encouraged to actively participate in the institute's academic life and contribute to the broader research environment. Fellows will benefit from access to IOS research infrastructure and academic networks, including library resources, opportunities for scholarly collaboration, participation in events and talks, and possibilities for co-teaching and academic exchange.

### *Publications*

Fellows are expected to develop at least one article-length contribution based on their research and collaboration at IOS, which may be considered for publication in the Armenian Journal of International Law, subject to successful peer review. Additional outputs, such as blog posts and working papers, are highly encouraged.

### *Contribution to the International Autumn School in Yerevan*

Fellows will be expected to contribute to the preparation and implementation of the International Autumn School in Yerevan from 30 September till 10 October 2026, organised jointly by IOS and the Faculty of Law at YSU.

This involvement may include organisational matters, academic coordination, teaching contributions, moderation of discussions or workshops, and active engagement with participating students from Germany and Armenia. Fellows are expected to support the interdisciplinary and collaborative character of the Autumn School and contribute to its academic and intellectual exchange.

## FUNDING

The Visiting Fellowships are funded by the DAAD and include:

- a fellowship stipend of up to €2,150 per month;
- a travel allowance provided as a lump sum of €825.

The period of the fellowship is flexible. The minimum duration is one month and the maximum duration three months; however, all fellowship stays must be completed by 15 December 2026.

The project expects to award up to two Visiting Fellowships.

## ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must hold a PhD, be at an advanced stage of doctoral research, or be experienced professionals with relevant expertise in the programme's thematic fields. Applicants should be affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution in Armenia or demonstrate equivalent professional experience and qualifications.

Applicants must also demonstrate a research focus clearly relevant to the programme themes and possess sufficient English proficiency for academic work, collaboration, publications and teaching contributions.

### *Selection Criteria*

Selection will be based on:

1. the academic quality and originality of the proposed research project;
2. the relevance of the project to the programme themes and its potential contribution to joint research and teaching activities;
3. the feasibility of the proposed research project or work package within the fellowship period during the research stay at IOS Regensburg;
4. the applicant's potential contribution to IOS–YSU cooperation, including teaching activities and the organisation and implementation of the International Autumn School in Yerevan (30 September - 10 October 2026);
5. consideration of diversity, including gender balance and disciplinary breadth.

## APPLICATION

Applicants are requested to submit the following documents in a single PDF file in English:

- a research proposal (max. 3 pages) outlining the research question, theoretical framework, methodology, and relevance to the programme themes;
- an academic CV, including the contact details of two references;
- a motivation letter (max. 1 page);
- optionally, one writing sample.

### *Application Procedure*

Applications should be submitted to: [daad26@ios-regensburg.de](mailto:daad26@ios-regensburg.de)

Please use the following subject line for your application email: **Application – DAAD  
Visiting Fellowship**

Application deadline: **20 June 2026**

Incomplete or late applications cannot be considered. The selection process will be carried out jointly by Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS Regensburg) and the Faculty of Law at Yerevan State University (YSU). Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Please note that submitted documents and personal data of unsuccessful applicants will be deleted automatically six months after the application.

### **Contacts for Inquiries:**

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Dr. Artur Simonyan, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS),  
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Prof. Dr. Cindy Wittke-Hohlfeld, Head of Department of Politics, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) Regensburg, [wittke@ios-regensburg.de](mailto:wittke@ios-regensburg.de)