

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

FELLOWSHIP 2025/26

€ Grant of € 20,000 / Research Project

🕒 One Year (Nov 2025 - Oct 2026)

About the Programme:

As a contribution to European integration and to promote knowledge exchange within the 'Generation Europe', the Charlemagne Prize Academy aims to identify future challenges and, by awarding annual research fellowships, to develop solutions at an early stage. Innovative approaches are to be linked with decision-making as well as promoted through a financial grant of €20,000.

In accordance with the objectives of the Charlemagne Prize, the programme aims to promote unity in Europe, mutual understanding between peoples and the rooting of the European idea in all areas of society.

Who are we looking for?

- young talents (individuals or groups) of all fields and disciplines with an innovative project idea related to the future of Europe
- postgraduate degree (preferably Master or equivalent)
- younger than 35 years of age
- professional English language skills (minimum C1)
- citizen of an EU member state or temporary resident in Europe

Apply Now!



Application Period: 1 July - 17 August 2025

Application Portal: <https://www.karlspreis.de/de/academy/application>

OUR ANNUAL FOCUS

Shield or Share: How to Navigate Europe in Times of Division?

Europe is confronting a historic juncture, marked by shifting geopolitical alliances, economic volatility, resource scarcity, and urgent demands for digital sovereignty and sustainability. We invite bold, cross-disciplinary research proposals that investigate how Europe can strategically “shield” its foundational interests while responsibly “sharing” values, alliances, resources, and objectives in times of combined pressure.

The following points are intended to inspire and stimulate research projects that we would be delighted to support with a research grant in the upcoming academic year:

- **New Global Landscape:** How can Europe recalibrate its foreign and economic partnerships across the EU, NATO, the “Global South”, and other strategic blocs to balance autonomy and alliance?
- **Economic Resilience and Resource Security:** In the face of inflation, supply chain fragility, and global competition, how can European economic systems distinguish themselves and buffer the continent? What strategies can ensure innovation, production, and access to critical raw materials—such as rare earths, semiconductors, or green energy components—without compromising values or creating dependency?
- **Digital and Ecological Transformation:** How can resilience be embedded in digital and environmental frameworks? What infrastructure—from cyber capabilities to data platforms—must Europe build to preserve democratic integrity in an AI-driven world? How can Europe lead actions towards sustainability and nature conservation?
- **Preparing for the Next Crisis:** How might Europe respond to escalating ideological pressure, future pandemics, or demographic shifts? Which emerging vectors warrant immediate attention and research?
- **Cutting-Edge Research:** How does your research endeavour position Europe as a top-tier research haven? How can Europe, amid current transformations, tangibly create to outcompete on the global stage and lead through innovation?

Your project could explore:

- strategies and reforms that strengthen Europe’s technological, ecological, and economic stance,
- novel models for pan-European ecosystems,
- community-based or artistic interventions showcasing digital democracy, climate smart resource use, or civic resilience,
- individual innovations shaping Europe’s future,
- hands-on, applied research developing concrete, scalable solutions across sectors,
- ... and much more.

The Fellowship programme is open to all research projects and disciplines that offer concrete, innovative, and feasible approaches to address the complex and interdisciplinary challenges in a European context. We highly encourage young scholars of all fields, young professionals, or employees of scientific, political, or public institutions to hand in their research proposals for the research year 2025/26 by August 17.



What do we offer?

The Charlemagne Prize Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for early-career researchers to develop and realise their own innovative project with **financial, academic, and mentoring support**. Fellows become part of a dynamic European **network**, engaging with leading experts, decision-makers, and fellow researchers at **high-level events** such as the Summit or the Karlspreis awarding ceremony. The programme provides time and space for **independent thought**, fosters **professional and academic growth**, and offers a valuable stepping stone toward a distinguished career path.

Application and Selection Process

The Fellowship Programme is open to projects from all disciplines that propose concrete, innovative, and feasible approaches to address the annual focus topic. To apply, please complete the application form on the Karlspreis website and upload the following documents in English: your CV, your research proposal and your cover letter.

After submitting your application, you will receive a confirmation email. All submissions will first be reviewed for completeness and compliance with the formal eligibility criteria. Eligible applications will then be evaluated by our diverse and high-level selection committee. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to brief online interviews (approximately 10–15 minutes). The final selection will be made by the Foundation's Board in October. All applicants will be notified of the outcome thereafter.

Successful candidates will be asked to sign a grant agreement and a mentoring contract ahead of the official fellowship award ceremony, which will take place in autumn.

Contact

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