



MARTHA COOPER SCHOLARSHIP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE MARTHA COOPER SCHOLARSHIP?

The Martha Cooper Scholarship (MCS) is a production scholarship for professional documentary photographers with an ethnographic focus. It is a unique opportunity for qualified as well as non-academic individuals from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe (only Non-EU and Non-EFTA states), North America, or South America who will dedicate themselves for ten months to an artistic project through the medium of photography. The MCS is directed at artists who use photography in an effort to promote positive impact on the world. The scholarship is based on the annual topic of Fresh A.I.R., the scholarship programme of Stiftung Berliner Leben, addresses social and political developments that affect us in the present, and highlights the diversity of human experience and perception of the world. One MCS is awarded every year. The MCS grant has no age limit (18+ years). Only projects that are compatible with the principles of Fresh A.I.R., the Stiftung Berliner Leben and the free democratic basic order in terms of content, implementation and planned outcome are eligible for funding. Projects with racist, anti-Semitic, queer-hostile or otherwise marginalising and denigrating content are excluded.

CAN I APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP EVEN IF I DON'T LIVE IN GERMANY?

Yes. Artists from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe (only Non-EU and Non-EFTA states), North America, and South America can apply. The application process and further communication will be made in German or English.

DO I NEED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP OF A STATE OUTSIDE THE EU AND EFTA?

With your application, you must indicate your citizenship (place of birth). If requested, please submit proof of your citizenship and/or your permanent main residence (copy of official photo ID, copy of registration form).

CAN WE APPLY AS AN ARTIST DUO?

No. The Martha Cooper Scholarship is only awarded to one individual artist.

DO I HAVE TO PROVIDE REFERENCES FOR MY APPLICATION AND CAN THESE BE FROM ABROAD?

In the case of an exceptional project concept, we reserve the right to have the necessary expertise of the applicant confirmed by up to two letters of reference. References from abroad can be submitted as long as they are written in English.

DO MY CERTIFICATES NEED TO BE VERIFIED FOR THE APPLICATION?

No, your certificates do not need to be verified to complete the application.

WILL I BE NOTIFIED ONCE I HAVE SENT MY APPLICATION?

Once we have received your application documents, you will receive an automated confirmation of receipt and your individual applicant ID.

WHO MAKES THE DECISION ON THE AWARD?

An international committee of experts decides on the awarding of the scholarship. They assess the formal requirements and compatibility of the project submitted with regard to content using the funding priorities expressed in the public call. Furthermore, the feasibility of the project submitted is assessed, among others, in consideration of organisational and financial factors. Only complete applications will be presented to the selection committee.

HOW AND WHEN WILL I FIND OUT IF MY APPLICATION WAS SUCCESSFUL?

We will let you know no later than two weeks after the selection meeting whether or not you will be receiving the Martha Cooper Scholarship.

HOW LONG WILL MY SCHOLARSHIP LAST?

The Martha Cooper Scholarship is awarded for ten months. The stay in Berlin begins in February and ends in November of the respective year.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE MARTHA COOPER SCHOLARSHIP

The MCS is subject to the same conditions as the Fresh A.I.R. scholarship. The value of the scholarship amounts to a total of up to 2,100.00 Euros per person, per month. This amount is broken down, as follows:

- Rent-free living in one of our Berlin residencies (including electricity and Wi-Fi) worth up to 1,000 Euros per month for the duration of the stay.
- Cost of living subsidy of 700 Euros per month for the duration of the stay.
- Materials costs according to the budget plan as part of the project application amounting to a maximum of 360 Euros per month for the duration of the stay.
- Cost of travel subsidy (transport and fares) of 100 Euros per month for the duration of the stay.

DO I NEED TO DECLARE THE SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT ON MY TAX RETURN?

According to our information, Artist in Residence scholarship payments are unremarkable with regards to tax. Therefore, you do not need to declare this on your tax return.

WILL I BE TOLD OF THE REASONS IN THE EVENT OF REJECTION?

Due to the large quantity of applications received, we are unable to provide individual feedback.

DOES IT COST ANYTHING TO APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

The online application is free of charge. Provided that the application is approved, the scholars will be required to cover the costs associated with visa applications and travel expenses to and from the residence.

WILL A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS BE ACCEPTED?

Yes.

HOW DO I RECEIVE POST IF MY CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS CHANGES?

If your correspondence address changes, you must ensure that any post is forwarded to you. Please let us know of your new address in good time should it change permanently.

WHAT OBLIGATIONS DO I HAVE TO MEET AS A SCHOLAR?

It is important to us that scholars develop during the scholarship. We expect fellows

- to expand on the points in the programme for the URBAN NATION Museum and StadtRaum!

Plus ideally in the form of a workshop, lecture or similar programme format for the general public during the course of the scholarship,

- to be present at the final presentation of work results,

- to be prepared for a cultural and artistic exchange with the Berliner Leben foundation and other cultural professionals.

I AM CURRENTLY SPONSORED BY ANOTHER AUTHORITY. CAN I STILL APPLY?

The scholar is authorised to receive state or private funding which does not exceed the amount of €450 a month. Possible sponsorship, which runs at the same time as the Martha Cooper Scholarship must be communicated to the Berliner Leben foundation immediately.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO RECEIVE FUNDING FOR THE SAME PROJECT FROM ANOTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTION?

No. You may not apply with a project that you are already or will be receiving support for.

DO I HAVE TO PAY BACK MY SCHOLARSHIP?

No, as long as you comply with the conditions of participation set out in the funding guideline and in the contract documents, you do not have to repay your scholarship.

WILL I RECEIVE A HEALTH INSURANCE ALLOWANCE?

No, you will receive no additional allowances other than those stated in the funding guideline.

WHO CAN ACCESS MY DATA?

The documents related to the project proposal are presented to the exclusive circle of members of the selection committee. All members have signed a non-disclosure agreement. Funding from the Berliner Leben foundation complies with the data protection provisions applicable in Germany. Your data will not be passed on to third parties. The data will only be used for the purposes of selecting and supporting scholarship holders. Any additional use requires a separate agreement.

CAN MY PARTNER LIVE WITH ME IN THE FLAT?

Stays by friends, partners or relatives that exceed a visit duration of 4 weeks at a time are categorised as 'co-living'. These persons will be charged a monthly lump sum for shared use of the flat to cover warm utilities (heating, hot water) as well as electricity and internet. The lump sum will be calculated individually based on the size of the flat. If you are planning to live with a person who is not involved in the artistic project for the entire duration of the scholarship, please inform us in good time, as this must be taken into account when allocating the flats. Please note that the foundation does not cover any costs incurred by your partner for travel to and from Berlin, visa or living expenses in Berlin.

CAN I BRING MY PET?

Unfortunately, pets are not permitted in the residency flats. Please only apply if you have alternative care arrangements for your pet during the scholarship period.

CAN I COLLABORATE WITH OTHER PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS AS PART OF MY PROJECT?

We welcome project ideas that actively involve local participants and organisations. Potential partners (institution, organisation, association, public figure) should therefore be researched and named as part of the project application. If the project is approved by the Foundation, these partners must be contacted immediately regarding potential cooperation. For project ideas that can only be realised in cooperation with a project partner (institution, organisation, association, public figure), written proof of this partner's willingness to cooperate must be submitted by email at the time of application, stating the applicant ID. The same applies to applications from people who belong to a network (e.g. artists, scientists, cultural professionals, etc.) or are known to such a network and plan to involve this network as essential external partners in their project. In addition, a backup should always be considered in order to replace absent cooperation partners if necessary.