



# NIAS

Netherlands Institute  
for Advanced Study  
in the Humanities  
and Social Sciences

## Regulations - NIAS Safe Haven Selection Procedure

### NIAS Safe Haven Fellowship

#### *Article 1     General*

- 1 NIAS opens the Call for NIAS Safe Haven Fellowship applications in December 2025. This fellowship is open for established scholars, artists, writers and journalists who are unable to carry out their work in their current location due to conflict or war. Those facing severe infringements on their academic freedoms due to conflict or war are also welcome to apply.
- 2 NIAS aims to grant equal freedoms and rights to all researchers. We will not exclude individual researchers based on their nationality, ethnicity, religion, or affiliation, and are dedicated to ensuring that everyone in our community feels safe among their peers. However as of March 2022, as part of the EU sanctions in response to the Ukraine crisis, NIAS is forced to deny applicants (whatever their nationality) affiliated to Russian or Belarusian universities and research institutes. Applicants with a Russian or Belarusian nationality who are independent or are affiliated to a research institution outside Russia or Belarus, are eligible.
- 3 A NIAS Safe Haven Fellowship consists of:
  - a. 5 months to work on a project of their own choice;
  - b. Office with Internet and ICT support;
  - c. Communal lunches (working days);
  - d. Technical and practical support;
  - e. Library service;

- f. Participation in the weekly seminar(s) and other academic activities;
  - g. Facilities to organise an in-house Expert Workshop;
  - h. Facilities for public outreach;
  - i. Possibility to apply for a stipend covering part of the costs of a fellowship (for fellows from universities or institutes abroad or independent scholars);
  - j. Possibility to apply for a Dutch University Grant (for fellows affiliated to Dutch universities, paid to the university directly);
  - k. Possibility to apply for subsidised accommodation in Amsterdam or reimbursement of the daily commuting travel expenses.
- 4 A NIAS Fellowship does not constitute an employment relationship. Consequently, NIAS is not required to make social insurance, pension, or unemployment insurance contributions.
- 5 The Safe Haven Fellowship is a temporary fellowship that does not offer the possibility for long-term residence at NIAS or in Amsterdam. NIAS cannot be held accountable for possible consequences of the stay at NIAS after the fellowship has ended.
- 6 Stipends. Fellows who are in need of financial support, can apply for a stipend of € 3,500 per month. This applies to fellows without (sufficient) income during their fellowship, who are 1) affiliated to a university or institute outside the Netherlands; or 2) who are living in or outside the Netherlands and are (temporarily) not affiliated to a university, or who are self-employed.
- 7 Taxation of stipends. Stipends awarded by NIAS to Dutch scholars, authors, journalists and artists are seen as '[Income from other work](#)' by the tax authorities of the Netherlands, and should be filed as such for tax return by the recipients themselves. Fellows who do not live in the Netherlands [will not be taxed for stipends](#) which, according to the bilateral tax treaty, have been assigned to their country of residence and they pay taxes there.
- 8 Accommodation. Fellows from outside the Netherlands or fellows living in the Netherlands with more than a 1.5-hour commute (one way) from the NIAS premises can apply for a studio at the Fellows House at a highly subsidised rate of € 975 per month. Fellows who bring their children to Amsterdam may apply for a family apartment at the same subsidised rate.

9 Travel costs. Fellows who travel from abroad to the Netherlands can receive reimbursement of one return ticket up to a maximum of € 1.500. Fellows who commute from their home in the Netherlands to NIAS, can receive reimbursement of their travel costs up to a maximum of € 250 per month.

10 Conditions. When signing a fellowship agreement at NIAS, you agree to live by the requirements and responsibilities listed below:

### **Requirements**

- NIAS fellows are required to be physically present at NIAS at least four days per week.
- For the complete duration of the Fellowship Agreement every fellow needs to be released as much as possible from teaching, supervision, and administrative obligations. An exception is made for the supervision of PhD-candidates. By signing the Fellowship Agreement, both fellows and Dutch universities or institutes are committing to meet these basic conditions of a NIAS fellowship. See for exceptions on this rule: *Article 8* of these Regulations.
- With the exception of those taking place during vacation weeks, fellows attend all weekly seminars during their fellowship period.
- During the academic year of their fellowship at NIAS, fellows are required to conduct a minimum of two peer reviews of fellowship applications on behalf of NIAS.
- Fellows may take up to two weeks of vacation per semester.
- Fellows can attend a maximum of two external research related events of more than one weekday per semester, so long as these do not intervene with their seminar attendance. The costs involved will be at the expense of the fellows.

### **Responsibilities**

- Fellows commit to making a constructive social and intellectual contribution to the NIAS community during their stay.
- NIAS fellows are required to respect and honour the [NIAS Code of Conduct](#).
- NIAS fellows generally collaborate in the case of interview requests, videos, photography and other ways in which NIAS wishes to present the institute to the outside world.

- For the duration of their fellowship, NIAS fellows commit to identifying themselves as 'fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS-KNAW)'.
- Fellows selected within the context of a partnered fellowship, also commit to the fellowship requirements of that partner.

11 Research Integrity. NIAS fellows are required to adhere to the [Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) and observe this code when carrying out their research at NIAS. This document speaks of five general principles: 1) Honesty, 2) Scrupulousness, 3) Transparency, 4) Independence and 5) Responsibility.

12 Each academic year six Safe Haven fellowships (in sum a maximum of thirty fellow months) are granted to NIAS Safe Haven Fellowship applicants. Each semester two Safe Haven fellowships are granted to academic applicants and one Safe Haven fellowship is granted to a non-academic applicant. The exact number of fellowships granted is a decision made by the NIAS Directorate in line with *Article 7* in these *Regulations*, taking into account for instance the available office spaces, accommodation and resources.

## *Article 2      Formal requirements for a NIAS Safe Haven Fellowship application*

- 1 The formal requirements for a NIAS Safe Haven Fellowship application are:
  - a. Applicants submitting a scientific research proposal must hold a PhD and have at least three years of research experience after obtaining their PhD on the date of their application;
  - b. Applicants submitting an artistic, journalistic, or writing-focused proposal must demonstrate at least 7 years of professional experience in their field, as evidenced by their C.V.;
  - c. The application must be completed through the official form on the NIAS website;
  - d. The application must be written in English and the applicant themselves must have a sufficient written and spoken command of the English language to take part in elaborate academic discussions;
  - e. The application must include a project proposal, a motivation and a C.V. all of which must be uploaded as separate .doc, .docx or .pdf documents;

- f. The project proposal may be no longer than a maximum of 1500 words including footnotes, excluding references;
- g. The project proposal must fit within the scope of humanities and/or social sciences; and must constitute an original project that would be feasible to conduct at NIAS;
- h. The project proposal must address the evaluation criteria under Article 4;
- i. The proposal must contain at least a clear description of the project that will be conducted during a stay at NIAS; a research question, as well as the methodological and theoretical contribution the project aims at;
- j. The motivation may be no longer than 300 words excluding references and must address the following items:
  - How does your proposed project relate to your academic or professional trajectory to date?
  - Why is this fellowship timely for your current academic or professional context?
- k. The C.V. must be up-to-date and may be no longer than 2 A4 pages;
- l. The C.V. must contain at minimum:
  - All degrees attained by the applicant, including the name of the granting institution and date of completion;
  - All positions that the applicant has held that are relevant to the applicants field and proposed project, including the name of the employer, date of start- and end of employment, position held and whether the position was part-time or full-time.
  - A list of the applicant's core publications (maximum of 10 publications) in MLA format including hyperlinks. This shortlist should provide a global overview of the entirety of the candidate's career and development so far and does not count against the maximum of 2 A4 pages;
- m. Project proposals, motivations, C.V.s or answers to questions in the application form may not be generated by AI;
- n. Applications may only be written and submitted by the applicant themselves. Applications written and/or submitted by intermediaries of any sort are considered ineligible.

- o. The application must be completed correctly, truthfully and contain all the requested information and required documentation. In case an application is not complete or correct, the application will automatically be rejected.
- p. Applicants cannot amend, modify, shorten or change in any way any aspect of their application after having submitted it.
- q. An applicant who previously held a NIAS fellowship may only apply for a NIAS Individual Fellowship if there are at least 10 years between the application date of the previous fellowship and the current application deadline date (see for exceptions on this rule *Article 7* of these *Regulations*);
- r. Applicants cannot apply for a fellowship while they already have an application under review with NIAS;
- s. The NIAS director reserves the right to extend invitations for Guest of Director-fellowships independently from any NIAS selection procedures to any candidate or alumni regardless of selection status or previously completed fellowships at NIAS in deviation from *Article 2q* of these *Regulations*.

### *Article 3      Application procedure*

- 1 The Call for Applications for the NIAS Safe Haven Fellowship is a continuous call which will stay open until further notice.
- 2 NIAS batches and assesses Safe Haven Fellowship applications twice a year, once in late July, once in early March, in which the eligible applications during that period are assessed.
- 3 Applications must be written in English and submitted via the application module on the NIAS website and they must comply with all the formal requirements as stated in *Article 2* of these *Regulations*.
- 4 An application is only considered as being submitted once an automatic confirmation of receipt has been sent to the applicant.
- 5 NIAS and KNAW employees, members of the KNAW Board and members of the NIAS Academic Advisory Board (AAB) may not apply.

- 6 The Selection Officer at NIAS checks whether the application complies with all the requirements as stated in these *Regulations*. If the application does not meet the formal requirements the application will be rejected and the applicant will be informed by email by NIAS.
- 7 If an application is deemed eligible, it is sent to two external referees to evaluate its scientific content and fit within the NIAS research community.
- 8 NIAS does not communicate with intermediaries acting on behalf of an applicant or third parties of any kind about the status of any of application it receives.
- 9 NIAS reserves the right to impose a cap on the number of applications admitted to the Safe Haven Fellowship programme during one of the two yearly application periods at any given time.

#### *Article 4 Evaluation by external referees*

- 1 Applications that meet all formal requirements as stated in *Article 2 and 3* of these *Regulations* will be sent to a total of two selected external referees taken either from the panel of referees compiled by NIAS for the selection procedure, and/or from the body of NIAS alumni. The range of specialties of the NIAS panel of referees is broad which ensures that a wide variety of expertise and backgrounds is represented.
- 2 The external referees evaluate the project proposal, with the applicant's C.V. serving as background information. The applications submitted within this Call are evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

##### Academic Quality (50%)

- a) A clear research topic and research question;
- b) The project's relation to existing literature in the field;
- c) The academic, societal, cultural, or artistic relevance of the project;
- d) Identification of key problems and the proposed methodology;
- e) Feasibility of the timeline;
- f) The intended (research) output.

##### NIAS Environment (50%)

- a) Fit with the candidate's academic and/or professional trajectory to date;

- b) The added value of NIAS' interdisciplinary environment for the proposed project;
- c) The applicant's potential intellectual contribution to NIAS and its community.

The referees evaluate the project proposals and give each proposal a numerical score for each criterion on a scale of 1 to 5 where "1" is 'excellent' and "5" is 'very poor'. NIAS ranks the applications based on the referee scores.

- 3 The ten highest scoring academic applications and ten highest scoring non-academic applications from the referees' evaluations will be presented to the Advisory Committee commissioned by the NIAS Academic Advisory Board as described in *Article 5* and *Article 6* of these *Regulations*.
- 4 In a situation in which two or more applications on the border of either of the two rankings cannot be distinguished from each other based on their weighted total score, the application with the higher NIAS Environment score will be sent on to the Advisory Committee. If the applications subsequently remain tied, the tied applications in question will all be sent to the Advisory Committee.

#### *Article 5      Advisory Committee, responsibilities, composition and work procedures*

- 1 NIAS (the Director and the Head of Curriculum) installs an Academic Advisory Board (AAB) which has the task of advising NIAS on all selection procedures and of ranking applicants, taking into account the internal balance of the proposed year group, in terms of discipline, gender, seniority and regional diversity. On the basis of the advice of the AAB the NIAS directorate takes final decisions about the allocation of fellowships.
- 2 The Academic Advisory Board consists of a maximum of seven members including the chair. Members are appointed by the Director of NIAS for a term of four years, which can be extended for one more term of four years.
- 3 The Academic Advisory Board consists of the chair and members of the Scientific Advisory Board (WECO) plus three additional members. In appointing the Academic Advisory Board members, care is taken to maintain a balance with respect to discipline, gender, age and regional diversity.
- 4 The members of the Academic Advisory Board are bound by the "KNAW code of conduct for the boards, juries and committees that assess and decide on the conferral of awards, memberships and funding" (See the [KNAW website](#)).

- 5 NIAS staff provide the necessary administrative support and facilities to the Academic Advisory Board.
- 6 The Academic Advisory Board commissions two of its members as an Advisory Committee for each Safe Haven Fellowship selection process to advise the NIAS directorate in the ranking of Safe Haven Fellowship applicants.
- 7 All decisions made by the Advisory Committee must be unanimous. If the Advisory Committee cannot reach a consensus on any given decision, the decision will be put before the entirety of the Academic Advisory Board who will make the decision by majority vote.

#### *Article 6 Evaluation by the Advisory Committee*

- 1 The Advisory Committee evaluates the quality of the ten best academic and ten best non-academic applications that received the highest scores from external referees with respect to the criteria stated in *Article 4.2* of these *Regulations*.
- 2 Subsequently, the Advisory Committee ranks the candidates and presents its findings and advises the Director of NIAS on the final selection of candidates.

#### *Article 7 Final selection by the Director of NIAS*

- 1 The Director of NIAS decides the final selection of candidates on the basis of the Advisory Committee's advice, with a focus on the following additional criteria:
  - a. Diversity of disciplines;
  - b. Gender balance;
  - c. Regional diversity;
  - d. Balance between early, mid and late career candidates;
  - e. Availability of office spaces, accommodation and resources.
- 2 The Director of NIAS also finalises the reserve list of candidates on the basis of the Advisory Committee's advice. This list will be used to augment the selected group if candidates from the first list refuse (or are unable to accept) the fellowship offer. Candidates on the reserve list are prioritised according to their ranking scores.

- 3 The Director of NIAS informs all candidates in writing of his decision, i.e. candidates who have been selected, candidates who have not been selected and candidates who have been placed on the reserve list.
- 4 Once all selected candidates have been informed by the Director of his decision, NIAS will discuss with the successful candidates the details of their Fellowship Agreement, based on their personal circumstances. If NIAS and the candidate do not come to mutual agreement, the Director's decision (as stated in *Article 7, section 3*) expires. If that is the case, the candidate will be notified and the Director of NIAS will select a new candidate from the reserve list.
- 5 All fellowship offers to selected candidates are made for a specific semester in a specific academic year. If a selected candidate is not able to conduct the fellowship at NIAS for the full duration of the semester in question, the offer will be revoked. Fellowship offers cannot be deferred to a future semester or future academic year.

#### *Article 8 Events beyond the parties' control*

- 1 In case of an event beyond the parties' control, such as (but not limited to) a pandemic, conflict or war, that makes it (temporarily) impossible for the successful candidate to commence the Safe Haven fellowship on time for the full duration of the semester in question, the fellowship will be postponed to the following semester, in deviation of *Article 7, section 5* of these *Regulations*, pending the candidate's ability to comply with the obligations set forth in their Fellowship agreement for the new fellowship period. A Safe Haven fellowship can only be postponed once for a successful candidate in this way.
- 2 In case of an event beyond the parties' control that makes it (temporarily) impossible for NIAS and/or the successful candidates to comply with obligations set forth in their Fellowship Agreement after the fellowship has already commenced, an amended agreement may be drafted by NIAS and signed by both parties at the discretion of the NIAS director;
- 3 Such events include for instance (further) shutdown, work stoppage or work delay of a governmental entity, service provider or other business necessary for the performance of the terms of the Fellowship Agreement; (further) national or local government orders, including but not limited to (further) travel restrictions; the COVID-19 or other illness or required lockdown or quarantine of either NIAS-KNAW or the Fellow;

- 4 Successful candidates who hold a fellowship during such an event, are exempt from *Article 2, section 1q*.

#### *Final Provisions*

- 1 These *Regulations* were finalised by the Directorate of NIAS on 08-12-2025.
- 2 In any situations not mentioned or covered by these *Regulations*, the Director of NIAS will make the final decision.

*Regulations - NIAS Selection Procedure Safe Haven fellowships effective from December 2025*

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