

IJP INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS' PROGRAMMES

The Southern-African Journalists' Fellowship Programme 2026 The Federal President Horst Köhler Bursary

IJP e.V.
**German-Southern African
Programme**

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Non-profit Association

Programme Description

Every year the International Journalists' Programmes (IJP) offer a bursary to up to six young Southern African (SADC-Member States: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe + Kenya) and up to five young German journalists.

For two months the Southern African delegates will have the chance to work in Germany. They will be integrated into the day-to-day journalism of their host newsroom while also researching stories for their home media. It is assumed that all candidates have a strong command of the English language. German language abilities are an advantage but are not mandatory. The Southern African Bursary is a multiyear effort to shape an integrated understanding of the other country and region and to foster relations between Africa and Germany. The bursary is intended to enable young journalists to gain valuable insights into the political, economic, cultural as well as the social fabric of the host country.

The Southern African-German Journalists' Programme starts with an introductory conference for all delegates in Berlin. This will allow the participants from Southern Africa to familiarize themselves with the host country.

Mode of payment

The Southern African delegates receive a fixed payment of 3,500 Euro. This is expected to cover most of their travel, accommodation and living expenses. No further payments will be made: delegates are expected to use their own funds for any further costs. Payment for their work with the host media is not envisaged.

Application

All journalists from Southern Africa (SADC Member States + Kenya) between the age of 25 and 40, who regularly work for a media organisation, can apply.

- Enclose a CV with a passport photograph
- Write an 800-word essay addressing the following topics:
 - Why would you like to work in Germany?
 - What are the three research topics you want to pursue during the fellowship?
 - What role do you expect to play at your home media in the future?
 - How will you spend the bursary?

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- Include a one-page resume detailing your education and work experience, your standard of German and English (copies of certificates/ e.g. Goethe Institute/TOEFL), plus two copies of articles written by you (TV and radio journalists should submit manuscripts or links, since no audio or video tapes can be considered)
- A journalistic reference from your editor or head of department is required (freelancers should submit a reference from a senior journalist). It should also guarantee your leave of absence for the duration of the programme.

Legal action in respect of the final decision shall be barred.

Applicants are asked to send their application documents (only by email) from November 1st, 2025 until January 15th, 2026 to the following email address: office@ijp.org

Further information on the programme and the application process can be found at: <https://ijp.org/en/programmes/southernafrica/>