

25th German-Eastern European Programme Marion Gräfin Dönhoff Fellowship

IJP e.V.
German-Eastern European
Programme

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Non-profit Association

The German non-profit organisation IJP (International Journalists' Programmes) would like to announce its twenty-fifth bursary for journalists from Eastern Europe and Germany.

The Marion Gräfin Dönhoff Journalism Fellowship gives German and Eastern European journalists the opportunity to work for two months as a guest editor in an Eastern European, Baltic or German editorial office. Due to the war, in 2025 German bursary holders will be accommodated mainly **in the three Caucasian republics and in Moldova**. The safety of our scholarship holders has top priority..

At the same time, this scholarship is open to journalists from **Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia as well as the former Central Asian CIS countries**, who can apply for a two-month working stay in Germany. Due to the war, Russian, Ukrainian or Belarusian journalists who are fleeing their country and who are currently in Germany/abroad may also apply.

Purpose

IJP is a non-profit organisation offering sponsored exchange programmes for early and mid-career journalists between Germany and more than 40 other countries and regions. These include the United States, Northern Europe, the Netherlands, Turkey, Latin America, East Asia, Russia, Southern Africa and the Middle East. The purpose of these exchanges is to allow participants to experience their host countries from a correspondent's perspective, exchange knowledge and network within their field.

Marion Gräfin Dönhoff (02.12.1909 - 11.03.2002), long-time editor of the weekly newspaper DIE ZEIT, gave her name to the IJP programme for Eastern Europe. The programme is supported by the ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS and the Federal Foreign Office.

The German-Eastern European Programme - like all IJP scholarship programmes - is organised on a voluntary basis. Further information is available at: www.ijp.org

The Bursary

The scholarship begins with an introductory conference, which takes place at the end of September or the beginning of October 2026. This is immediately followed by an eight-week stay at a German or Eastern European host media outlet.

The scholarship consists of a one-off payment of **4,000 euros**. This amount is intended to cover part of the travel costs, as well as food and accommodation during the stay abroad, visa fees and health insurance. Financial compensation from the host media outlet is at the discretion of the respective host and is usually not provided. A postponement of the guest stay is not possible.

The programme does not end after two months. All fellows are invited to participate in alumni activities beyond the duration of the programme.

Application

Applications are open to German and Eastern European journalists, bloggers and documentary filmmakers between the ages of 23 and 35 who regularly work as freelancers, journalists or editors for German or Eastern European newspapers, radio stations, TV stations or online editorial offices. Good German or English language skills are mandatory for Eastern European applicants. For applicants from Germany, knowledge of an Eastern European language will be given preference.

Applications must be submitted by **April 30th, 2026** and sent by email to doenhoff@ijp.org.

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

- a CV
- a letter of motivation
- a journalistic reference from an editor-in-chief or supervisor, supporting the application, confirming (where applicable) leave of absence for the duration of the scholarship and serving as proof of journalistic activity. For freelance journalists, a reference letter from an editorial office or editor-in-chief with whom they have worked closely may be submitted.
- three written work samples. TV and radio journalists are requested to submit a comprehensive list of outstanding contributions (no clips). Documentary filmmakers should submit a list with links to existing projects as well as a short description of the project they intend to realise during the scholarship.
- proof of German and/or English language skills (certificates, language school diplomas, university degrees, etc.)
- an indication of preferred host organizations and/or cities/regions. Please note: consideration of preferences can not be guaranteed.

All documents must be complete.

The selection committee will inform applicants of the outcome by **June 6, 2026**.

Address of application

The digital application is kindly requested in **one PDF document** (the file should be clearly named, e.g.: Last name_First name_Scholarship.pdf) and sent to:

doenhoff@ijp.org

If you have any queries regarding the programme or your application, please contact IJP.

E-mail for applications and questions: doenhoff@ijp.org

Coordination: Anna Andrievskaya andrievskaya@ijp.org

Head of the programme: Miodrag Soric soric@ijp.org

Further information: <https://ijp.org/en/programmes/easterneurope/>