



2027 JAVIER & MARTA VILLAVECCHIA FELLOWSHIP

Call for applications

Barcelona, April 1st, 2026

Introduction

The Centre for Aesthetics, Religion and Contemporary Culture (CERCCA) at Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), and the Haas Library Association, are pleased to announce a call for applications for one individual fellowship, permitting the successful applicant to carry out an original artistic and / or research project at the Haas Library in Barcelona for a period of four months during the year 2027. We welcome scholarly and/or artistic submissions from any disciplinary background or perspective, though candidates must show the specific link between their proposal and any aspect or theme of the Haas Library collection.

The Haas Library, founded in 2003, includes an important collection of around 50,000 books donated by Prof. Alois M. Haas (1934-2025) to UPF. This collection constitutes a highly specialized library for the study of the humanities, religious thought and mysticism, with a particular emphasis on the Western tradition. The catalogue has grown over the decades with Prof. Haas' donations, including literature and resources on philosophical anthropology, metaphysics, theology, and aesthetics. The last portion of his library arrived in February 2025 and is still being catalogued. The collection is housed at the General Library of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in the stunning *Dipòsit de les Aigües* (Water Tower) building, which offers a privileged environment for researchers.

Aims and Eligibility

This call is open to **postdoctoral researchers**, **artists**, and **art-researchers**, with original and innovative proposals that make use of the themes and materials of the Haas Library.

Exceptionally well-devised proposals by **predoctoral researchers** in the later stages of their PhD programme will also be considered. In these cases, the applicant will have to detail the crucial role that the resources in the Haas Library will play in the completion of their thesis.

The fellowships offer the chance to develop an original project that takes advantage of the unique features of the Haas Library. The Centre for Aesthetics, Religion and Contemporary Culture welcomes proposals from any discipline or field, though multidisciplinary proposals are particularly encouraged.

Academic researchers wishing to apply should present a proposal stipulating their specific interest in the Haas Library (<https://www.upf.edu/web/cercca/fons-haas>), a plan for the research they wish to undertake during the fellowship, and any

publications or other outputs they plan to produce as a result of the proposed research. Artists wishing to apply should also show in their proposal how the planned project combines artistic production with theoretical approaches related to the material housed at the Haas Library.

Thanks to the generosity of Javier & Marta Villavecchia, as well as the continuous support of the whole family, the goal of the programme is to foster the production of research and creative outputs that take advantage of the Haas Library's unrivalled collection of academic material and to connect working artists and researchers with interests in the areas of religious thought, mysticism and the humanities.

Requirements

Scholars and researchers from any academic discipline may also apply for the fellowships, though applications from those working in the arts and humanities are particularly encouraged. Artists applying for the fellowship may come from any disciplinary or educational background.

There are no restrictions with regard to the applicant's country of origin. Applications from outside Spain will be prioritized.

Application

The application process is completed when the applicant has sent to associacio.haas@upf.edu the following files:

1. Application form (available in <http://www.upf.edu/web/cercca/fellowship>).
2. Letter of introduction and motivation (1 page).
3. *Curriculum vitae* (2 pages).
4. Two recommendation letters.
5. Detailed proposal of the project to be carried out as fellow, putting emphasis on its adjustment to the aims of the scholarship (3 pages).

Conditions

The fellowship funds a four-month project. During the project execution time, the fellow will be affiliated with UPF as visiting researcher. Projects should be scaled for completion during the four months of the stay. The library closing periods in August and December-January are not eligible. Candidates are advised to consult the library opening hours and closing dates: www.upf.edu/web/biblioteca-informatica/ciutadella.

The fellow will have access to the Haas Library and all its services (borrowing rights at the different venues of the UPF library, Wi-Fi, computers, and access to the university premises and all library facilities). They will also have access to a private office inside the library.

During the fellowship, and always voluntarily, the fellow is encouraged to participate in the activities of the Centre for Aesthetics, Religion and Contemporary Culture, and those of the Haas Research Group in Poetics of Knowledge. This group is made

up of permanent faculty members, visiting scholars and artistic collaborators. The Group has a long history of research in the area of Eastern and Western religious and spiritual traditions, and their intersection with aesthetics and cultural production.

Recognition of the Javier & Marta Villavecchia fellowship must appear in all publications or outputs derived from the period of research at the Haas Library. The Centre for Aesthetics, Religion and Contemporary Culture reserves the right to exhibit part or whole of the fellow's research and artistic outputs on its website and related social media accounts.

The proposed project should preferably not have been allocated any other sources of funding, and must not be granted economic support from any other institution for the same period.

Selection process

The successful candidate will be selected by a committee made up of members of the Centre of Aesthetics, Religion and Contemporary Culture, including researchers and specialists in the fields of religion, theology, and the arts and humanities.

The proposed project will be judged on the basis of its academic and/or artistic value, its fit with the aforementioned criteria, and the candidate's CV at the time of application. During the selection process, candidates may be requested to undergo an online personal interview at the committee's request.

Stipend

The stipend of the fellowship is 8,600€, and the fellow's travelling expenses up to 1,000€ will also be covered.

Bench fee: If the selected project requires resources, materials, or technical infrastructure not available at UPF, whether during its development, production, and/or dissemination phases, the fellow will be invited to submit a budget aligned with the project's objectives. This budget will be reviewed by the selection committee, and a decision will be communicated to the fellow within two weeks. The maximum amount available under this fund is €2,000.

Deadlines

The deadline for submission of applications for the 2026 call is August 31st, 2026.

The committee's decision will be communicated by October 2026. Successful candidates will be notified by email.