

**2025 JAVIER & MARTA VILLAVECCHIA FELLOWSHIPS**  
Centre for Aesthetics, Religion and Contemporary Culture  
Universitat Pompeu Fabra



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**Introduction**

The Centre for Aesthetics, Religion and Contemporary Culture and the Haas Library at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra are pleased to announce a call for applications for two individual fellowships, permitting the successful applicants to carry out original artistic and/or research projects at the Haas Library for a period of three months during 2024-2025. 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 40,000 books donated by Prof. Alois M. Haas (University of Zurich) to the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. 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. Its catalogue is still growing thanks to recent donations by Prof. Haas, including literature and resources on philosophical anthropology, metaphysics, theology, and aesthetics. 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 both **artists** and **postdoctoral 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 program 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. Candidates from any academic background are eligible to apply. 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 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, the goal of the fellowships 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, Western mysticism and the humanities.

**Requirements**

Applicants for the fellowships must be over 18 years of age at the time of application. Artists applying for the fellowships may come from any disciplinary or educational background.

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. Researchers must have completed their Ph.D. at the time of application.

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](mailto:associacio.haas@upf.edu) the following files:

1. Application form (available in <http://www.upf.edu/web/cercca/fellowship>).
2. Personal letter of introduction and motivation (1 page).
3. *Curriculum vitae* (2 pages).
4. Two letters of reference.
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).

### **Stipend**

The stipend of the fellowship is 1.600€ per month during the aforementioned three-month period.

Fellows' travelling expenses up to 1.000€ will also be covered.

### **Conditions**

Fellowships are for a period of three months. One fellowship will be granted for the winter semester (from September to February), and another for the spring semester (from February to July). The periods in which the library is closed (August, Christmas holidays) are excluded. Candidates are advised to consult the Library calendar: [<http://www.upf.edu/bibtic/coneixer/adreces/calendari\\_ciudadella.html>](http://www.upf.edu/bibtic/coneixer/adreces/calendari_ciudadella.html)

Projects should be scaled for completion during the three months of the research stay.

Fellows 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). Fellows will also have access to a private office inside the library.

During the fellowship, and always voluntarily, fellows are encouraged to participate in the activities of the Centre for Aesthetics, Religion and Contemporary Culture, and those of the Haas Library Research Group (*Biblioteca Haas*). 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**

Successful candidates 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.

## **Accommodation**

The fellowship does not cover accommodation, but the Mobility Office of the University may provide information of accommodation options.

## **Deadlines**

The deadline for submission of applications for the 2025 call is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

The committee's decision will be communicated between May and June, 2024. Successful candidates will be notified by email.