

Hessian Ministry
of Science and Research,
Arts and Culture



“Strengthening Democracy Research in Hessen”

Program funded by the **Hessian Ministry of Science and Research, Arts and Culture (HMWK)**

Paulskirche Professorship in Democracy Research

The Paulskirche Professorship in Democracy Research stands for outstanding scientific achievements in the field of democracy research and for a lively exchange between science and civil society. It contributes to strengthening democratic ideals and civil liberties. As part of the program “Strengthening Democracy Research in Hessen”, the visiting professorship is named after the Paulskirche in Frankfurt am Main, which in 1848/49 became the seat of the Frankfurt Parliament, the first publicly and freely elected body in Germany to draft a democratic constitution. The Paulskirche is therefore regarded as a symbol of the democratic movement in Germany.

The Paulskirche Professorship in Democracy Research enables excellent international academics with a proven track record in democracy research to spend a year researching and teaching at a university or university of applied sciences in the State of Hessen.

- Qualified candidates interested in the visiting professorship must be nominated by the universities or universities of applied sciences in the State of Hessen. The universities are required to submit a concept that demonstrates the integration of the visiting professorship into academic life and civil society on campus and in Hessen.
- The professorship is primarily, but not exclusively, open to academics who currently work outside of Germany and are able to provide new impetus to the research field as well as to the culture of democracy.
- The visiting professorship is based on § 81 Hessian Higher Education Act (HHG) and, if applicable, the guidelines of the respective host university for visiting professorships. Funding is provided to cover personnel rates in the context of the

visiting professorship. HMWK provides additional funding for the implementation of a framework program as outlined in the university's concept. Personnel rates and costs earmarked for the framework program may add up to a maximum of 330.000 € p.a.

- The call for proposals will be published in German and English on the HMWK website on 23 December 2025 with a deadline of 16 March 2026.
<https://wissenschaft.hessen.de/forschen/demokratieforschung>
- Decisions on proposals will presumably be made in spring 2026 with a starting date of the visiting professorship on 1 October 2026 at the latest.

Future calls for proposals will be issued until the end of the program in 2028. Call and starting dates for the professorship may vary.

Please contact us if you have any questions:
demokratieforschung@hmkw.hessen.de