



INTERCONTINENTAL ACADEMIA



The Intercontinental Academia will bring together researchers from various countries to interdisciplinary studies on time

A group of 15 young researchers from different countries and areas of knowledge will participate in an unusual collaborative project from November 2014. The goal is to develop interdisciplinary studies at the Intercontinental Academia, an initiative by University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study (Ubias), an international network of scientific cooperation that brings together 34 institutes of advanced studies from 19 countries in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Oceania.

The IASs that will organize and host this first edition of the Intercontinental Academia in two immersion meetings are the Institute of Advanced Studies of the University of São Paulo (IEA-USP), Brazil, and the Institute for Advanced Research (IAR) of Nagoya University, Japan. Throughout the project, participants will have the guidance of three senior scientists from regional and international recognition.

THEME

Time has been chosen as theme for the project due to being usually conceptualized differently in each area of knowledge, whether in the humanities or the natural sciences. For a comprehensive overview of the impacts of these notions in science and culture in general there must be an academic dialogue between people working and experiencing the different concepts of time.

IMMERSION MEETINGS

After the selection of participants in November, the preparation for the completion of the first immersion meeting in March 2015 at the University of São Paulo will get started. The second meeting will be held at Nagoya University in January 2016. Between April and December 2015, the interval between both immersion periods, the participants will continue their studies by contacting each other and the Scientific Committee of the Intercontinental Academia through the internet.

During the meetings in São Paulo and Nagoya, the researchers will have the chance to discuss research topics through lectures, readings, workshops and discussions, as well as to share experiences and participate in intercultural activities and a social programme.

The exchange of information will take place not only among the participants to be selected for the Intercontinental Academia, but also between all the people involved in the project and local scientific communities, offering new

opportunities to connect with science, culture and research projects of excellence from around the world.

This edition of the Intercontinental Academia will end in March 2016, two months after the date of the immersion meeting in Nagoya. This final period will be focused on the editing of the results of the project.

REGISTRATION AND SELECTION

Those interested in running for one of the 15 slots for researchers should be aged up to 40, hold a PhD or post-doctorate (completed or in progress) in any field of knowledge and be fluent in English. A letter of interest in English should be sent to one of the Ubias members from June 16, 2014.

The letter should contain the interest in participating in the Intercontinental Academia, summarized information on their career and academic performance, and an exposition on how it will be possible to contribute to the project. If the candidate receives a letter of endorsement from the institution to which they have sent the letter of interest, they must then complete the application form and attach the required documents.

Once that each one of the 34 Ubias members should indicate three candidates on average, there is an estimated population of 100 candidates for the final 15 slots. The list of participants should include the diversity of areas of knowledge and nationalities.

EXPERIMENTAL SPACE

In the opinion of Martin Grossmann, director of the IEA-USP, the Intercontinental Academia will function as a laboratory for future collaborative university-level work: "It is a small-scale project, but with the potential to generate a new format of scientific activity."

Although the term "academia" is usually associated with a body of scientists that are not involved with the transformation of prevailing ideas despite their great contributions to knowledge, in the sense used for the Intercontinental Academia, according to Grossmann, the word "refers to an environment of cutting edge thinking, an experimental space for discussions, risks and unexpected encounters. "

According to economist Dapeng Cai, from the IAR-Nagoya, an initiative such as the Intercontinental Academia is very important because "university research is overly focused and specialized, and researchers are not able to share languages, do not relate to other fields of knowledge and forget how to communicate with each other. "

Cai points out that the Intercontinental Academia is guided by three goals: to stimulate joint research between Ubias members; to establish cooperation networks between scientific leaders of the next generation; and to explore new forms of collective academic practices and new formats of scientific coaching, collaboration and dissemination.

More information on the Intercontinental Academia can be requested at <http://intercontinental-academia.ubias.net/> or ica_iea@usp.br.