

Guest Researcher Programme

Shweta Mishra

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As a focal point for social policy research, DIFIS aims to improve nationwide cooperation and intensify interdisciplinary academic exchange by focusing on future challenges for the welfare state and facilitating networking among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. Starting in July 2024, DIFIS will launch its Guest Researcher Programme aimed at fostering networking among scholars in Germany and internationally, while advancing interdisciplinary research in social policy. This programme targets researchers specializing in welfare state research, comparative/international social policy, social work, sociology, economics, law, political science, and related fields. Guest researchers will have the opportunity to spend **up to two weeks at DIFIS**¹, collaborating closely with the DIFIS team and other members of the DIFIS network.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are invited from professors, postdoctoral researchers, doctoral candidates, early-career researchers, and practitioners with a special interest in research. The Guest Researcher Programme is primarily aimed at international researchers and practitioners, although applicants from Germany will also be considered. The proposed activities of the guest researcher should relate to the DIFIS Research programme and/or align with the focus of at least one of DIFIS's present research fields and/or Issue Networks:

1. Social policy and ecological sustainability
2. Challenges of the modern world of work
3. Transnational social security in the migration society
4. Life course and social policy
5. Social policy as process
6. Social conflicts and social policy
7. Poverty research
8. Social services & digitalisation - making critical social infrastructures sustainable and resilient
9. Social jurisdiction

Interested individuals can submit their applications at any time by sending the documents listed below by email to Dr. Shweta Mishra, Managing Director, DIFIS at shweta.mishra@difis.org.

Additionally, suitable candidates can be invited to apply to the programme by Core Team members, Fellows, Research Field and/or Issue Network Coordinators. In both cases, the following documents must be submitted:

- Research field/Issue Network in which they intend to work during the stay
- A short outline of the planned activities during their stay at DIFIS and their suitability to DIFIS objectives (one page)
- Curriculum vitae including academic training and professional experience
- Relevant publications (related to the proposed activities)
- Proposed date of arrival and length of stay
- Calculation of costs associated with the stay

¹ Longer stays are possible depending on planned activities and output.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Presentation of your research to the DIFIS team
- Contribution to (at least) one of the DIFIS publication formats (DIFIS Study, Policy Brief, or a contribution to the DIFIS Blog)
- *Optional:* Other outcomes such as a joint grant application or a publication, co-organizing or participating in DIFIS events (in consultation with Research Field/ Issue Network coordinator)

APPLICATION DECISION

The final decision will be made by Prof. Dr. Ute Klammer, Director, DIFIS (for the location Duisburg), Prof. Dr. Frank Nullmeier, Deputy Director, DIFIS (for the location Bremen), Dr. Shweta Mishra (Managing Director, DIFIS) and the coordinator of the specific research Field/ Issue Network in which the applicant intends to work during their stay at DIFIS.

WHAT WE OFFER²

- Travel costs to and from Germany (air or rail), accommodation costs, and a daily allowance
- Internet access
- Office space with access to DIFIS infrastructure (laptop, if necessary)
- Possibility to participate in DIFIS events
- If necessary, DIFIS will provide a letter of support to facilitate the visa process

The DIFIS Guest Researcher Programme can also be used to partially fund a longer stay in Germany if the applicant has other sources of funding. However, the applicant must spend one to two weeks at DIFIS and contribute to at least one of the expected outcomes of the Programme.

ABOUT DIFIS

DIFIS is an inter-university institute jointly run by the Universities of Duisburg-Essen and Bremen, based at the the Institute for Work, Skills and Training (IAQ) in Duisburg and the SOCIUM Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy in Bremen. DIFIS is funded by the Funding Network for Interdisciplinary Social Policy Research (FIS) of the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS).

DIFIS is committed to creating a diverse working environment and welcomes and encourages applications from qualified individuals of all backgrounds, religions, genders, sexual orientations, gender identities, national origins, ages, disabilities, or any other characteristics.

For further questions about our Guest Researcher Programme, please contact Dr. Shweta Mishra, Managing Director, DIFIS- shweta.mishra@difis.org

² Requirements, such as childcare, assistance with accommodation search can be discussed on a case-by-case basis.