

Brussels Centre for Urban Studies - Call for Civil Society Fellows 2019

Brussels Centre for Urban Studies

The Brussels Centre for Urban Studies is an interdisciplinary research centre at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) that brings together urban researchers from various disciplines. Its aim is to increase the visibility of VUB urban research and to develop and support research projects in the domain of urban studies. The centre orientation is global, but particular attention is paid to the urban dynamics of Brussels.

Civil Society Fellowships

The civil society fellowship programme of the Brussels Centre for Urban Studies is intended to support research collaborations between VUB research groups and civil society organisations and professionals in Brussels (defined in this context as encompassing the Brussels-Capital Region and the wider metropolitan area).

The envisioned fellows will be staff, board members or volunteers of civil society organisations in Brussels that focus on urban issues and challenges in any of the three research themes of the Brussels Centre for Urban Studies: sustainable urban environments; urban cultures and diversity; and governing urban economies. We recognize that individuals with extensive experience in civil society organisations possess invaluable expertise to tackle these urban challenges and want to fund work that leads to increased cooperation between civil society professionals and university researchers. In order to ensure the interdisciplinary orientation of the fellowship project, applicants are expected to work together with at least two VUB research groups. For more information on the three themes and a list of the VUB research groups, see the Centre website: <http://urbanstudies.brussels/>.

Fellowship projects can take many forms including, but not limited to: collaborative research with sociocultural or social movement groups or neighbourhood organisations; involvement in teaching and mentoring students in a research action project; the production of innovative research-led pedagogical material; and analysis of public policy and urban development projects that result in new policy positions and advocacy around these positions. Above all, we want to support activities that develop sustainable academic–civic research relationships, that go beyond the boundaries of the established university practice and contribute to addressing key urban problems in Brussels.

Fellowship amount and duration

The fellowships are intended to complement the fellow's regular activity or to give a fellow the opportunity to withdraw from her/his regular activities for a limited period of time in order to create a space for reflection and research. For example, the fellowship may provide support to release a member of a civil society organisation from regular activities for one or two months full-time or for one day a

week for a longer period of time. The fellowship budget can also be used for non-salary related expenditures, such as project materials, ICT and other infrastructures, travel and accommodation, and project dissemination. In principle, the Brussels Centre for Urban Studies expects to fund two to four projects per year up to a maximum of € 10,000 per project.

Application process

Civil society fellowship applications need to be jointly submitted by the prospective fellow and two VUB research groups. The deadline for applications is **5 September 2018**. Applicants should submit the Application Form available on the website <http://urbanstudies.brussels/funding> as well as a recent CV. Fellowship applications should be written in English, French or Dutch and submitted via e-mail to Elena Solonina (esolonin@vub.be). Following notification within six weeks after this deadline, applicants are expected to start their fellowship between January and December 2019.