



**JOURNALISTS
IN RESIDENCE**

European Centre for Press and Media Freedom



**EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
PRESS & MEDIA
FREEDOM**

in process of being established

ECPMF'S JOURNALISTS-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME

Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly is the Journalists-in-Residence Programme?

For journalists who are at risk due to their reporting, the ECPMF's Journalists-in-Residence (JiR) Programme provides a temporary shelter in Leipzig, Germany: It creates a safe haven away from the threatening environment, a place to continue one's investigations and writing, and an opportunity to network.

The programme is aimed at journalists who have suffered bullying and severe threats, psychological harassment and/or physical abuse, threats to their wellbeing and/or attempts on their life. To the ECPMF it makes no difference whether the respective perpetrators are governments, authorities, organised crime, private individuals, commercial entities, political or religious groups or any other aggressor.

In the current cycle you can apply for a residency for a minimum of three months or a maximum of six months during the period from November 2018 to the end of June 2019

Am I eligible to apply? Main criteria at a glance

You are invited to send in your application if you...

- are a citizen of Turkey and currently based in Turkey
- provide documentary proof you are at risk due to your reporting
- are working/have worked as a professional journalist
- are proficient in English, French or German (level B2)
- are not affiliated to any extremist movement and/or party
- intend to return to Turkey once your stay has come to a close

General questions

What proof does the ECPMF require that I'm at risk?

All applicants must provide documentary evidence that they are under pressure due to their journalistic work. This proof might take the form of coverage by other media outlets, by government authorities, NGOs, or any other kind of document or reference which allows the ECPMF's staff to verify the situation to which you are exposed.



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Who is actually considered a journalist under the rules of the JiR programme?

Applicants are eligible if they are working/have worked as a professional journalist.

If selected, what does the ECPMF expect of me during my stay in Leipzig?

First and foremost, the programme is intended to provide you with a safe place away from the hostile environment. As a rule of thumb, we provide the framework and you fill it. While we are happy to offer hints and our network of contacts, we expect you to conduct your investigations and projects independently.

I'm not a Turkish citizen. Will my application be considered?

No, it will not. This particular call is only for journalists who hold a Turkish passport and are currently based in Turkey.

Additional timeslots for journalists from countries other than Turkey will become available at a date yet to be announced. If you are based outside Turkey and would like to be notified, please contact us at journalistsinresidence@ecpmf.eu and provide us with your name and email address. We will then inform you once a call is about to be released that includes your country of residence.

Why exactly should I be proficient in English, French or German?

In order to settle in quickly and to make full use of all the options that come with a stay in Leipzig, it is indispensable that you are able to communicate fluently in English, French or German, without third party support.

Details of the JiR programme

Which kind of costs will the ECPMF cover if I'm selected?

The ECPMF will cover your visa fees and your travel costs to and from Germany. We also arrange health insurance and provide you with a monthly allowance of 1,000 euros. If you would like to take part in a training course on a subject relevant for your work, or if you would



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like to see a psychotherapist, the ECPMF will cover these costs as well. Please be aware, though, that we are unable to fund any additional expenses, such as language courses or printed materials. While we can help you to arrange all of the above, they would have to be covered with your own funds.

Where exactly will I live?

The ECPMF will provide you with a furnished and equipped apartment in a safe location in Leipzig, Germany.

Am I allowed to work while I am with the ECPMF?

Please be aware that paid work is usually not permitted under the conditions of visa issued to citizens of Turkey.

Can you provide me with jobs in Germany, or put me in touch with potential employers?

No, we can't. However, we are committed to support your investigations or help to promote your case to the best of our abilities.

How is the JiR programme funded?

The European Centre for Press and Media enjoys the support of various donors, among them the European Commission, the Free State of Saxony, the city of Leipzig, and Media Foundation of Sparkasse Leipzig. This current residency cycle is funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). The ECPMF welcomes all kinds of support to assure the continuity of the programme and invites private [donations](#) for this purpose.

Is my personal data safe?

We keep all personal data strictly confidential. Under no circumstances will we share it with third parties of any kind. If you prefer to do so, feel free to get in touch with us by encrypted email – a PGP key can be found [here](#).



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Application process

How do I apply?

The application form and questionnaire are available for download on [this page](#). Please fill in the form and questionnaire, add your CV, and – as outlined in the application form – an in-depth description of the threats you are facing and your current circumstances. Please also provide us with references from at least two other journalists or NGO contacts who are willing to be contacted by the ECPMF and provide information about you and your work. Don't forget to tell us about your language proficiency and add supporting documents if you see fit.

What happens during the evaluation process?

The ECPMF's staff assesses all applications, documents and references equally and fairly. Drawing input from partners, we will thoroughly fact-check and verify your identity and the nature of the threat/s you describe in your application. Once fact-checking is completed, the ECPMF executive board makes a final selection from shortlisted candidates. A key factor is the urgency of the situation.

How long does it usually take to receive a reply to my application?

That depends on a variety of factors, and first and foremost on the overall number of applications the ECPMF has received. There are a number of parameters that you can actually influence directly, such as how easy is it to verify your information, how fast we are able to get in touch with your reference persons, etc. Rest assured, though, that we strive to assess your application and to get back to you as quickly as possible.