

PLANETARY SCHOLARS & ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM (2022-2025)

Call for Applications 2022: Planetary Materials

On behalf of the [Panel on Planetary Thinking](#), we are pleased to invite applications for an innovative fellowship program based at the Justus-Liebig-Universität (JLU) in Giessen, Germany. The consecutive four-year program fosters transdisciplinary dialogues between the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and the arts. In 2022, two fellowships are awarded throughout the summer, and two others throughout the winter term to explore **PLANETARY MATERIALS**. The fellowships cover three months, either to be realized within the period April-July or September-December. To contribute to each year's thematic focus, we seek individuals who are willing to transgress disciplinary boundaries within and resulting from their advanced, academic and creative endeavors.



The iconic "Pale Blue Dot" image taken by the Voyager 1 spacecraft © NASA

Fellows of the **Planetary Scholars & Artists in Residence Program** (2022-2025) receive the unique opportunity to engage in transdisciplinary dialogues while exploring how academia and the arts grapple with the manifold relations between societies and the planet. Drawing on to academic work - ranging from scientific experiments to rethinking theories of culture – can not only amplify the magnitude and profundity of art works but also inspire them, and *vice versa*. In providing the space and conditions for intensive, collaborative work in transdisciplinary tandems, we intend 'planetary projects' to explore what it means that we do not simply live 'on', but are part of an ever-changing planet. With this call we invite applications which focus on (1.) **PLANETARY MATERIALS** (2022), whereas the topics for the three consecutive calls will be addressing (2) **PLANETARY SPACES** (2023), (3) **PLANETARY AGENCY** (2024), (4) **PLANETARY POLITICS** (summer term 2025), and (5.) **PLANETARY FUTURES** (winter term 2025).

Planetary Thinking on Planetary Materials

The overarching questions the fellowship program aims to address touch upon the following dimensions:

- In **retrospect**: How did planetary forces form us? How did we obtain planetary forces that are capable of transforming Earth?
- As concerns the **present**: How can humans deal with irregular-regular planetary changes that are beyond their influence? What does it mean to have such powers, how should they be deployed and when should they be withheld?
- And **prospectively**: Which planetary forces beyond our influence can we anticipate? Which planetary dynamics can we ally or reunite with, and which alliances should we quit [if possible]?

Possible foci for the first round of fellows working *on* or directly *with* **PLANETARY MATERIALS** [2022] could include, but are certainly not limited to:

- ➔ existing and/or imaginary materials from terrestrial and/or extraterrestrial spheres, such as the elements, [star]dust, plastic, sand, fragments of meteorites;
- ➔ 'organic' and/or 'mechanical' forms of life and/or other materials (e.g., bacteria, viruses, artificial intelligence, genetically modified organisms);
- ➔ 'alive' and/or 'dead' materials, particularly those through which environmental changes manifest (e.g., fossils, tree trunks, glaciers);
- ➔ abstract, planetary phenomena (e.g., climate change, ocean acidification, earthquakes, floods, evolution, species extinction);
- ➔ forms of media addressing planetary perspectives (e.g. environmental storytelling, inter-species music and -art, performances).

While we wish to stress the open range of possible research projects, an overarching agenda to further an understanding of **PLANETARY MATERIALS**, particularly by rendering them visible, tangible, and/or palpable by creative/scientific means should be prominent.

Fellowship Awards

All fellows are expected to take up residence in Giessen (or its proximity) throughout their three-month fellowships. They will be granted a monthly stipend of **5,000 euros/month**, which is supposed to cover all travel and living expenses. In addition, funding for workshops, guest speakers, exhibitions, publications etc. can be made available upon request. During their residence in Giessen, fellows will be fully integrated into the JLU's institutional network and benefit from its comprehensive range of [research facilities](#). Fellows are expected to participate in the regular panel meetings, such as the **Planetary Lecture Series** (starting in 2022), and to design an engaging **workshop** with and for a transdisciplinary audience. Preferably in collaboration with their co-fellow artist/scholar, fellows may conceptualize the workshops in a format of their choosing, such as a masterclass, depending on their individual, scholarly and/or artistic subject matters.



*JLU's very own castle of
Rauischholzhausen – the ideal venue
for your co-organized workshops,
performances, exhibitions,
installations, or further festivities.*

© by JLU, Giessen

Comfortable and cost-effective one-room apartments with fully equipped kitchens have been reserved in the university's '**Alexander von Humboldt**' guest house, but fellows are welcomed to take up residence elsewhere according to their preferences. They will be provided with their own, newly renovated and furnished **office spaces and/or studios** at the *Panel on Planetary Thinking*'s headquarters within the city center—inside one of Giessen's most characteristic, old-style buildings (see photograph below). They will also be integrated in the academic life at the JLU, have full access to its libraries and academic support, and have the opportunity to attend a wide range of regular events.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any specific requests you might have. As we work in close cooperation with the JLU's international office, future fellows will receive adequate support on any formalities connected to their stay in Giessen (e.g., on questions about health insurance or registering at the city hall).



Requirements and Application Procedure

- fellows must have a demonstrated advanced academic or artistic record relevant to Planetary Materials
- fellows must commit to a stay of three months and take up residence in or in the proximity of Giessen
- fellows should be willing to participate actively in the activities outlined above and (co-)organize one workshop

The application (in English) should include the following:

- (1.) **cover letter** (one page max.)
- (2.) **curriculum vitae**
- (3.) **project description** (one page max.)
- (4.) tentative **abstract for workshop** or alternative format (one page max.)
- (5.) outline of any **specific requests** (health insurance, materials/equipment needed, individual requirements with regards to the furnishment of office spaces/studios, ...)

Applicants are welcome to apply individually or as transdisciplinary pairs (artist & scholar), with a concrete project in mind to which they will dedicate their fellowship.

The deadline for applications is the **30th of November, 2021**. Applications must be sent via email to panel@planet.uni-giessen.de. Shortlisted applicants may be invited for online interviews in December 2021, decisions will be announced by the end of the year. Those submitting joint applications are welcome to compile a full application each while emphasizing the points of contact between their projects.

For more information, please see our [website](#) or consult us via panel@planet.uni-giessen.de.

We are very much looking forward to reading your applications!

