

BRUSSELS INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES (BrIAS)

Call for Fellows in connection with the theme

“Democratic governance: Challenges and innovations”

One Senior Fellowship will be prioritised for a high-level candidate coming from a CIVIS university or strategic partner.

The Brussels Institute for Advanced Studies (BrIAS), co-founded by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB-EUTOPIA) and the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB-CIVIS), attracts top international experts, artists, and designers to explore themes with a great societal impact.

BrIAS hosts these “Senior Fellows” for up to five months, offering a residential, interdisciplinary, collaborative, free-spirited environment, fostering mutual cross-fertilization of ideas.

Previous themes were “The past, present and future of food, climate and sustainability” (2021-2023), “Sustainable robotics” and “Robots, AI and Automation” (2024-2025).

To date, BrIAS hosted 61 Senior Fellows, 20 Junior Fellows, 3 Resident Artists, and more than 250 Guest Speakers coming from 70 universities, research institutes or policy centres and 30 countries.

BrIAS selected “Democratic governance: Challenges and innovations” as the new topic for 2025-06 to 2027-09.

BrIAS has preferential relations with the members of the CIVIS and EUTOPIA University Alliances. For colleagues with high-level expertise (“EURAXESS Established and Leading researchers”) in the field of the new topic, BrIAS may offer a fellowship to a candidate from one of the universities or strategic partners of EUTOPIA and another to one of CIVIS.

Fellowships involve coming to Brussels between 15 January 2026 and 15 September 2027, for a stay between three and five months, ideally including months from January to May when the traditional weekly BrIAS seminars are being organised. During the rest of the academic year, a few topical activities may be organised.

The Senior Fellows are expected to provide at least one BrIAS Talk related to the theme and commit to attending and participating in all BrIAS events and social activities.

In addition to the reimbursement of travel expenses to and from Brussels, Senior Fellows will be provided with accommodation and an additional contribution towards extra living expenses.

Interested candidates should send an application to contact@brias.be, indicating why they would like to participate and which expertise they can offer during their stay.

Deadline for applications is 1 October 2025. The selection will be based exclusively on scientific excellence.

For more information on BrIAS in general or on the “Democratic governance: Challenges and innovations” theme, please check our website brias.be. More information on the Fellowships will be provided upon request by Anja Garone, BrIAS Administrative Manager, at contact@brias.be.