



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR
A FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR THREATENED CUBAN SCHOLARS
IN THE HUMANITIES, 2023–24
Deadline: April 15, 2023
Send all applications to cri@fiu.edu**

The Cuban Research Institute (CRI) of Florida International University (FIU) is pleased to request applications for its fellowship program for threatened Cuban scholars, funded by the Mellon Foundation, for the academic year 2023–24. The program will help artists, writers, scholars, and journalists from the island to continue their work in safety at FIU. The program will contribute substantially to broaden and deepen current discussions about intellectual freedom—including freedom of thought and expression—in Cuba, the United States, and around the world. The program will provide a temporary institutional base for scholars who face severe threats on the island because their work has challenged the status quo. These threats include the risk of persecution, incarceration, or banishment as a result of the scholars’ ideas, public interventions, or participation in peaceful demonstrations.

Activities

The Fellowship Program for Threatened Cuban Scholars in the Humanities, to last a maximum of one semester per scholar, will furnish a stipend and travel expenses. The program will also cover relocation expenses for each scholar and their families. A total of twelve resident fellowships will be awarded during the three-year duration of the program (January 2023–June 2026). By limiting the fellowship to one semester per scholar, the program will reach a large number of persons as well as cover a broad range of disciplines, such as literature, art, music, and journalism. The first fellowships will be awarded during the academic year 2023–24, beginning on August 15.

The program will have three main components:

- a. Research, writing, and creative work. The program will provide participants the time, material resources, and administrative support to conduct their own projects, whether academic or cultural in nature, such as archival research or musical performances. Each fellow will submit a proposal to pursue their scholarly, artistic, or cultural work while in residence at the Cuban Research Institute.

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- b. Participating in the scholarly and cultural life of the host institution (FIU). Fellows will be invited to give public lectures, attend panel discussions and conferences, and organize art exhibitions, concerts, and film screenings, among other activities. All of these events will be free and open to the general public.
- c. Networking with other educational institutions, through travel, research, and lecturing, especially in other members of the Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative, supported by the Mellon Foundation.

Selection Procedure

A panel of experts in Cuban studies affiliated with FIU's Cuban Research Institute will select the fellows for the program. Candidates may nominate themselves or be nominated by others. Following standard procedures for scholars at risk programs, the fellowships will be open to academics, writers, artists, and journalists fleeing persecution in Cuba. The panel will assess the level of risk experienced by applicants, particularly the threat of repression or punishment arising out of the scholars' work and their exercise of fundamental human rights. Such threats include harassment, surveillance, denial of permissions to travel, defamation, censorship, intimidation, arbitrary dismissal, exile, house arrest, arrest on false charges, detention without trial, imprisonment, and torture. U.S. citizens will be ineligible to apply. Candidates must demonstrate a record of accomplishment in their academic discipline, particularly in the humanities, including literature, music, and the visual arts. The expert panel will evaluate all applications and determine whether the candidates meet the selection criteria.

All applicants will submit the following materials to be considered for a fellowship:

- a. A one-page proposal describing the proposed academic or cultural work to be conducted at FIU.
- b. A cover letter indicating the current threat faced by the applicant, with corroborating evidence if possible.
- c. A recent curriculum vitae, including current affiliations, previous fellowships and awards, academic qualifications, occupational history, and other relevant professional information.
- d. Names and contact information of two personal references.

Fellowship Benefits

CRI will serve as the temporary home base for the selected fellows. The Institute will provide a stipend of \$48,500 per semester to each fellow, as well as travel support to Miami and in-kind support of various types, including shared office space; access to a personal computer, the Internet, and library resources; assistance in establishing contacts with FIU

faculty members; and general administrative support for the scholars' projects. The university will help fellows obtain an appropriate visa from the U.S. government. Fellows are expected to return to their original place of residence at the conclusion of their fellowship or seek employment at another U.S. institution.

Residential Requirement

In January 2021, the U.S. State Department reinstated Cuba to its list of state sponsors of terrorism. As a result of a Florida state law, which relies on that federally designated list, public universities in Florida are prohibited from paying any travel expenses to and from Cuba. Thus, all scholars participating in the fellowship program at FIU must reside outside Cuba at the time of their candidacy.