



**The Collaborative Research Centre CRC 1287 “Limits of Variability in Language: Cognitive, Computational, and Grammatical Aspects” in Potsdam, Germany, invites applications for short-term fellowships available in 2026 (available only to PhD candidates from non-German universities)**

The linguistic system exhibits a high degree of variability at all levels of linguistic description. This variability in language can be characterised as a range of different possible linguistic behaviours that are available to an individual language user, a group of language users, or in specific languages. The variability is limited by the constraints of the underlying linguistic system and shaped by cognitive and social or communicative factors. This variability is not just reducible to random noise but provides an important source of information to explain and predict linguistic behaviour. By modelling the factors influencing linguistic behaviours, the CRC (26 PIs in 15 scientific projects, two transfer project, one science communication project, and three service projects) contributes to a better understanding of the underlying mental representations and processing architectures in individual language users, as well as of the grammatical options available in individual languages and specific linguistic varieties, and options shared by particular subgroups of languages users.

The CRC provides a fantastic research infrastructure including a large interdisciplinary network of researchers and its own graduate school ([the MGK](#) - Integrated Research Training Group).

**We are offering several three- to four-month fellowships to PhD candidates from non-German universities who would like to carry out a collaborative research project within one of the projects of the CRC.** Please see the available projects here: <https://www.sfb1287.uni-potsdam.de/en/projects>.

The monthly fellowship is tax exempt and amounts to 1468 EUR (basic amount plus direct costs) plus 400 EUR per child if applicable. Holders of the grant need to cover health insurance on their own.

The University of Potsdam (UP) has a vibrant and interdisciplinary scientific community spanning many disciplines, including leading groups in the field of cognitive sciences (<https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/cognitive-sciences/index>). The CRC is located on the UP's Golm campus. It is 10 minutes away from Potsdam city centre by train and 40 minutes from Berlin. Potsdam is an attractive historical city and its palaces are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Both cities are culturally vibrant and offer an unparalleled quality of life, as well as affordable cost of living.

The University of Potsdam values the diversity of its members and pursues the goals of equal opportunities regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity. In the case of equal suitability, women in accordance with Section 7 (4) BbgHG and people with a severe disability will be given preferential consideration.

The fellowships require completed academic studies at an institute of higher learning (Master's degree or equivalent) **and enrolment in a PhD programme**. Furthermore, before submitting the application, **candidates must have approached the principal investigators in their project of interest with a developed proposal detailing (a) what they would do during their stay, and (b) how this relates to the aims of the CRC project**. Applications that do not meet these criteria will not be accepted.

Please note that **the fellowship must take place fully in 2026**. The earliest starting date is 1 April.<sup>1</sup>

Please send your application **as a single PDF file** to [mgk-sfb1287@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:mgk-sfb1287@uni-potsdam.de). This must include:

1. a short letter of motivation (max. 1 page)
2. a research proposal and timeline for the duration of the stay (2-4 pages)
3. a full CV including
  - prove of enrolment in a PhD programme<sup>2</sup>
  - academic transcripts,
  - list of publications/talks/presentations,
  - a web-link to a copy of the Master's thesis, and
  - names and e-mail addresses of **two** referees.

Additionally, **the research proposal should have a title and state which project within the CRC the short-term researcher wants to be affiliated with (e.g., "B01")**.

The deadline for the application for a fellowship in 2026 is **February 15, 2026**. Late applications may be considered if positions are unfilled.

For further details please contact the MGK coordinator, Dr Raúl Bendezú, at [mgk-sfb1287@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:mgk-sfb1287@uni-potsdam.de).

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<sup>1</sup> Calls for fellowships for the years 2027, 2028 and 2029 will be announced in due course.

<sup>2</sup> The candidate must be enrolled on a PhD programme for the full duration of the fellowship.