History of Art Institutional Fellowships

Special Note About Study Visas

Individuals receiving a History of Art Institutional Fellowship will need to secure a study visa from the country in which they will be in residence while on the Kress fellowship. The visa application process varies from country to country and may require several weeks to complete, particularly given summer schedules at many of the European art research centers affiliated with this program. The Kress Foundation therefore strongly advises Fellowship recipients to take appropriate steps towards obtaining the proper documentation immediately upon acceptance of the award, and to apply for the relevant visa as soon as possible, to ensure a successful start to the first year of research.

The appropriate consulate may require you to apply for the visa in person and may ask for the following:

1. proof of suitable accommodation in the host country;
2. proof of enough financial means to support yourself;
3. proof of health insurance;
4. proof of funds necessary to travel back to your home country, or a valid return-ticket.

Please note also that language can matter when communicating with consulates, especially in non-Anglophone countries. We have been advised, for example, that such English words as “research,” “work,” and “fellowship” may erroneously suggest work performed for compensation, which would require a different category of visa. Fellowship recipients may wish therefore to employ the word “study” as the most appropriate descriptive term for the activity they will be pursuing while at their European host institution. For the same reason, the financial support afforded by the fellowship might be best described as a “scholarship” rather than a “stipend.”

Finally, if your college or university has a study abroad office on campus, we encourage you to consult with them about the visa process and all facets of travel abroad.