

The UNESCO IBE Documentation Center

Fellowship Program

Completed applications should be sent to doc.centre@unesco.org by October 20, 2022.

UNESCO IBE Documentation Center is dedicated to using its invaluable materials to build bridges between scholars, educators, and the general public and to create opportunities for interdisciplinary research, scholarly exploration, creativity, and intellectual exchange.

Building on the collections' strengths, the UNESCO IBE Documentation Center Fellowship Program aims to educate, empower, fill gaps, establish new areas of research and excellence, and celebrate diverse voices and perspectives.

The IBE Documentation Center manages several fellowships that support individual research on the IBE's historical collections. The fellowships are open to scholars from all disciplines, with special consideration given to those whose projects demonstrate relevance to the IBE's mandate and mission.

The IBE particularly welcomes proposals that

- reexamine the historical collections through a global lens;
- focus on current and critical issues in curriculum and learning;
- contribute to debates about contemporary educational, social, political, and cultural issues; and/or
- connect the IBE more vigorously with other international organizations and research institutions in Geneva.

The IBE aims to facilitate research on its special collections by the broadest possible group of researchers, regardless of institutional association, race, cultural background, ability, sexual orientation, gender, or socioeconomic status. Researchers from the Global South are especially encouraged to apply.

Currently, the IBE offers two research fellowships, with a focus on the IBE **historical collections** (onsite) and the IBE **digital collections** (online).

General requirements

Applicants are invited to submit:

- a project proposal (1,000 words maximum)
- a preliminary list of IBE collection materials of interest to the applicant
- a curriculum vitae
- one letter of recommendation

Fellows are expected to:

- produce a written summary of their experience working with the collections
- acknowledge the IBE in any publication resulted from their fellowship research.

IBE Historical Collections Research Fellowship

Scholars at all stages of their careers are invited to apply for funding to pursue projects that require in-depth research on the IBE Documentation Center's holdings, draw on staff expertise, and participate in intellectual life at the IBE.

This application is open to academic and independent scholars, locally and globally, who would like to pursue research projects that require at least 3 weeks of onsite research with the collections.

The IBE welcomes applications from scholars using traditional methods of archival and bibliographic research, as well as from those who wish to pursue creative, interdisciplinary, and nontraditional approaches to conducting research in the collections.

Fellows receive a **4,900 CHF stipend** and are expected to be in residence at the IBE for at least 3 weeks, though these do not have to be consecutive weeks.

IBE Digital Collections Research Fellowship

The IBE Digital Collections Research Fellowship provides an opportunity for scholars to use the Documentation Center's large and varied digital collections and resources. The projects are expected to advance knowledge and to provide new insights on a number of key themes, including but not limited to curriculum/educational issues, international cooperation, innovative new digital methodologies, hidden and forgotten histories, and under-researched parts of the collections.

Fellows receive a **2,500 CHF stipend** and are expected to use the digital collections for at least 3 weeks in the year of their fellowship award. They are encouraged to think creatively about how the IBE's digital collections may inform their work and expand the impact of their research.

About the IBE historical collections

The IBE Documentation Center holds one of the largest and most diverse collections of historical school textbooks, atlases, and other educational materials in the world. The collection spans 140 countries and 101 languages, some of which are considered by UNESCO to be at a high risk of disappearing. Of these, the IBE holds a unique selection of more than 100 books in 24 different languages, ranging from Bemba to Sorbian and from Calabrese to Twi.

The IBE is also home to its invaluable historical archives, which document the emergence and development of global education as we know it and have informed the future of education and learning since 1925. The collection consists of approximately 40 linear meters of boxes containing correspondence, council documents, materials related to the sessions of the International Conference on Education, responses to surveys carried out by the IBE on various educational subjects, as well as publications and photographs. These materials document the tireless hard work of the IBE founders, staff, and supporters—from the IBE's inception through its integration with UNESCO in 1969.

As part of the IBE's mission to make its collections more accessible to a wider audience and to support research, teaching, and learning, the IBE Documentation Center has worked with TIND Technology, a spin-off of CERN, to digitize thousands of items from its collections. The result is an online portal that enables digital access to a wide variety of published and unpublished material, enabling direct access to the IBE collections, while preserving them for years to come. Researchers are encouraged to search the IBE's digital collections to explore the full range of materials available at:

<https://ibeunesco.tind.io/>.