

Call for Applications

EMA's Daniela Napoli Fellowships 2026/2027

Background

EMA—the [European Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation](#)—is a compelling example of inter-university cooperation. Funded by the EU and part of the wider 100-university Global Campus of Human Rights, EMA has been running for almost 30 years, enabled today by a network of 43 universities across Europe who co-design and co-implement its exciting one-year taught master's programme. EMA graduates contribute to human rights and democracy in important ways, including as professionals in national, regional and international governmental agencies, as well as in civil society and academia.

EMA would not thrive without its network of participating universities and the colleagues working within them as educators, researchers and managers making diverse contributions to human rights and democratisation. To acknowledge and build this network, EMA's governing bodies are pleased to announce a Call for Applications for a new visiting fellowship scheme.

Named in honour of Daniela Napoli, the head of the first Human Rights and Democratisation unit created by the European Commission and a key figure in the creation of the EMA, these Fellowships will be available during the academic year 2026/2027.

What we Offer

- A research stay at EMA's base on Venice-Lido at the headquarters of the Global Campus of Human Rights for a minimum of one month and up to two months between the start of October 2026 and end of January 2027
- A monthly stipend of €2,250 (gross) for a maximum of two months
- A dedicated desk space and for the duration of the Fellowship
- Opportunities to meet both EMA's student body and on-site faculty, as well as the network of visiting professors and other experts who are key to EMA's first-semester curriculum
- Access to the on-site canteen which provides lunch free of charge on days in which EMA students have classes

What we Expect

If appointed as one of EMA's Daniela Napoli Fellows, you would

- Offer office hours (two hours per week throughout your Fellowship) during which EMA students could attend to discuss e.g. thesis subjects related to your expertise
- Deliver either a) a seminar to EMA students or b) a public lecture on the topic of your Fellowship research
- Acknowledge the Fellowship in output(s) arising from research undertaken during the scheme
- Write a blogpost on the topic of your Fellowship research for publication in the Global Campus' Human Rights Preparedness blog

EMA's Daniela Napoli Fellows are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements and costs for the duration of their visit, as well as any insurance or visa costs.

Eligibility

Two Daniela Napoli Fellowships are available.

One will be awarded to an individual who is:

- An early-career researcher who has an affiliation with an [EMA participating university](#). We define this in the following way:
 - You are in the final year of study for a PhD at an EMA participating university; or
 - You are not currently affiliated with an EMA participating university but you defended your PhD at one of these universities no more than three years prior to the cut-off date for Fellowship applications; or
 - You are employed by an EMA participating university on a permanent or fixed-term contract that includes research and you defended your PhD no more than three years prior to the cut-off date for Fellowship applications.
- Conducting research in the field of human rights and/or democratisation, including human rights education. Interdisciplinary research projects are particularly welcome.

The above-listed eligibility periods can be extended for documented circumstances such as maternity, paternity, long-term illness and/or seeking asylum.

The second Daniela Napoli Visiting Fellowship will be awarded to an individual who is:

- A mid-career or senior scholar employed by an [EMA participating university](#). We do not have a precise definition of a mid-career or senior scholar; we see them as individuals who have progressed beyond the early stages of their research careers. There is no requirement for a specific number of years post-PhD (or equivalent research experience), rather we are looking for evidence of significant research and research leadership. Mid-career and senior scholars can hold either permanent or fixed-term contracts at an EMA participating university; and
- Conducting research in the field of human rights and/or democratisation, including human rights education. Interdisciplinary research projects are particularly welcome.

Application Procedure

Applications should be submitted in a single PDF document labelled with the applicant's surname and marked as EMA's Daniela Napoli Fellowship. It should contain:

- A 700-word research proposal that highlights how the research you would do as a Daniela Napoli Fellow aligns with the thematic focus of human rights and/or democratisation in Europe
- A 300-word explanation of how a research stay at EMA's base in Venice-Lido at the headquarters of the Global Campus of Human Rights would benefit you and EMA
- A 2-page CV

Applications should be sent to Dr Orla Ní Cheallacháin using the email address orla.nicheallachain@gchumanrights.org

The awarding of the Fellowships is subject to final budgetary approval.

The Selection Committee will comprise Prof Thérèse Murphy (EMA Chair), Dr Eva Maria Lassen (EMA Vice-Chair) and Dr Orla Ní Cheallacháin (EMA Programme Director). The selection will be confirmed by the EMA Executive Committee.

Timeline:

December 2025: Call for Applications circulated

2 March 2026: Deadline for Applications

By end March 2026: Selection Committee present choices for adoption by EMA's Executive Committee

April 2026: Applicants informed of outcome

September 2026: Formal announcement of Daniela Napoli Fellows