

## An Exceptional Visionary

Philosopher and literary scholar **Walter Benjamin** (1892–1940) is one of the most renowned representatives of his disciplines in the 20th century. Despite a doctorate assessed as summa cum laude in 1919, he did not pursue a typical career path in academia. He withdrew his habilitation thesis as others judged the work as too unorthodox for the academic domain.



Today, Walter Benjamin is highly regarded for his visionary oeuvre including "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction", "On the Concept of History" and his work on Charles Baudelaire. During National Socialism in Germany, he fled from the Nazis and committed suicide in exile in 1940. The DFG programme bears the name of an open-minded, gifted intellectual with many interests who is famous for pushing boundaries.

## Contact

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English

Additional information on the programme and the proposal process can be found on the DFG website at: [www.dfg.de/walter\\_benjamin/en](http://www.dfg.de/walter_benjamin/en)

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## Walter Benjamin Programme

Starting Your Research Career

## The Future Before Your Eyes

### **You have completed your doctorate and you would like to continue your career in research?**

Right now, it is important that you have clear-cut plans and ideas for the next stages of your academic career. Mobility and the further development of your research are key elements for that endeavour.

If you are aiming at an academic career, the DFG's Walter Benjamin Programme offers you excellent opportunities to develop an independent research profile with your own project at an early stage.

## Mobility, Independence and Career Support



The funding provided by the Walter Benjamin Programme allows you to pursue your own independent research project at the location of your choice for two years.

You can decide whether you choose a research institution in Germany or abroad. The Walter Benjamin programme is also open for Postdocs who look for research experience in Germany. There is also the option to combine stays at different places. It is important that you select a host institution with the best setting for your research idea. As mobility is particularly important in the early postdoctoral phase, you should move on to another academic environment.

If your proposal for the Walter Benjamin Programme is successful, you can focus on your research topic and, where required, take advantage of support to prepare you for the next stages of your academic career.

## Proposal Process and Funding

There is no formal age limit for submitting proposals, yet only postdoctoral researchers at an early career phase are eligible to apply to this programme. Periods of family responsibilities are taken into account.

In the Walter Benjamin Programme, funding is provided for a position in Germany and a fellowship abroad to cover maintenance. You will also receive a project costs allowance. Your host institute needs to provide you with working space and any additionally required project costs.

In Germany, you also need a statement from a researcher from your future host institution outlining the way he or she will individually support you in your career advancement and integrate you into local academic networks.

The review process for your proposal will focus on your previous research profile and your potential for an academic career, as well as your research project.

