

Call for applications: OCEAN FELLOWSHIP at Ocean Space, Venice  
March 10 – September 27, 2020  
Application deadline: January 20, 2020

## 1. OCEAN FELLOWS

**The Ocean Fellowship Programme** is a funded research fellowship opportunity, offered by TBA21–Academy and forming an integral part of the exhibition ***Territorial Agency: Oceans in Transformation*** to be held at Ocean Space (Venice, Italy) from **March 10 to September 27, 2020**. The fellowship is aimed at undergraduates, master or PhD level students, and at recent graduates who have specialised in fields of research such as Art and Art History, Architecture, Oceanography, Chemistry, Political Science, Postcolonial and Feminist Studies, Anthropology and Indigenous Studies, Accessibility and Educational Sciences. Applicants should think critically of the oceanic and explore new forms of research.

*Territorial Agency: Oceans in Transformation* is the result of a multi-year collaboration between **Territorial Agency** and **TBA21–Academy**. The exhibition will also coincide with the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Architecture – La Biennale di Venezia, curated by Hashim Sarkis under the theme “How will we live together?”. *Oceans in Transformation* investigates intersectionally the transformation of the world oceans during the Anthropocene. Assessing the latest scientific knowledge on the effects of a wide array of human-induced interferences on marine and coastal ecosystems, the project reiterates the critical role of the oceans in respect of planetary survival. Catalysed by global sea-level rise, the most visible sign of climate emergence, *Oceans in Transformation* takes shape as a large-scale multimedia installation at Ocean Space in Venice. The site of Europe’s oceanic frontline facing rising sea levels, Ocean Space becomes the site from which to unravel the findings and questions the oceans in transformation are posing. A comprehensive public and education programme, as well as an ambitious publication will extend the exhibition’s impact, aimed at informing and inspiring a large and diverse audience.

The programme supports research and investigations around following themes: the ocean as (wet) onto-epistemological space; deep-sea extractivism; extremophilic life-forms and hydrothermal landscapes; oceanic violence and maritime death; blue capitalism; legal histories and common heritage of more-than-humankind; interspecies’ imaginaries; ocean care; indeterminacy and unknowability of the oceanic; militarisation and traffic; the ecotone/liminal/sensitive zones; political ecologies and policy making for the next decade. Intersectional methods of analysis which superimpose the understanding of natural forces with political, economic, biological and social investigations across specific geographical spaces are foregrounded.

The **three and a half month Ocean Fellows Programme** will allow the fellows to get in close contact with the research conducted by Territorial Agency and TBA21–Academy, to get insights into the institutional context of Ocean Space, as well as to offer their unique knowledge, expertise and perspectives to *Oceans in Transformation*. Stemming from an alternative, indeed Pacific approach of what is considered to be ‘deep learning’, the programme invites the fellows to ‘dive deep’ and in a relational manner into the conceptual and systemic aspects of the exhibition. Further, they are encouraged to conceive and develop forms of mediation and activation for diverse audiences. Following a training period, the fellows will also act as mediators in the exhibition, alongside their research. The programme will unfold a mode of learning and pedagogy where knowledge is conceived as co-constructed through action and praxis.

In addition, TBA21–Academy is also seeking one more experienced candidate to act as Research Mentor to the group for the entire duration of the programme. The research mentor will supervise, follow and advise the fellows on the direction and progress of their project.

## 2. ACADEMIC FIELDS OF RESEARCH

Art and Art History  
 Spatial Research – Architecture and Urbanism  
 Oceanography – Environmental Sciences  
 Chemistry and Fluid Dynamics  
 Political Theory – Political Science and Philosophy  
 Postcolonial Studies  
 Posthuman Feminist Studies – Philosophy and Gender Studies  
 Indigenous Studies – Anthropology  
 Accessibility Studies – Educational Sciences  
 Environmental Humanities

## 3. STRUCTURE & TIMELINE

The Ocean Fellows Programme will offer a total allowance of 3,000 Euro per fellow for the 3,5-month duration of the programme. The allowance may be subject to tax and the fellowship status will have to be determined on a case by case basis. Travel and visa costs are not covered.

**Tue, March 10 – Sun, June 14, 2020:** First Ocean Fellows group (4 fellows in total)

**Mon, June 15 – Sun, Sept 27, 2020:** Second Ocean Fellows group (4 fellows in total)

The Research Mentor is expected to be in Venice throughout the full duration of the Ocean Fellowship programme. A total allowance of 15,000 Euro is set for the full duration. The allowance may be subject to tax and employment status will have to be determined on a case by case basis. Travel and visa costs are not covered.

**Tue, March 10 – Sun, Sept 27, 2020:** Research Mentor position

## 4. TASKS & ACTIVITIES

The role of the fellow is that of a cultural mediator and academic-scientific researcher. A fundamental part of the fellows’ responsibilities is to share their specific research and perspective on *Oceans in Transformation*. The exhibition is designed to enable individual and small group encounters with the audience. Interns are also asked to be available for specialised guided tours, with a focus on the topics they have investigated and a transdisciplinary approach.

The fellows will also contribute to and expand the knowledge and discourses at the core of *Oceans in Transformation* by researching the dynamics that affect the world's oceans analysed from within their specific field of study. The fellows will be invited to propose relevant texts, articles, research materials and documents to generate a nexus of insights and perspectives around the phenomena and materialisations of the so-called Anthropocene Ocean. Their research will become part of the Ocean Archive, a free-access international online archive and learning platform initiated by TBA21–Academy.

As part of an Ocean Learning Programme, fellows will be introduced to institutions, associations and professionals relevant to their area of research. Ocean Space will organise a series of meetings with researchers, scientists, activists, artists and policy-makers allowing interns to deepen their knowledge on oceanic issues and get in touch with professionals.

## 5. YOUR CONTRIBUTION

- Assist the audience with their visit and understanding of the exhibition and assume the function of mediators;
- Develop and lead guided tours through the exhibition focusing on a specific subject;
- Share your specific field of research with other fellows and the exhibition attendants, thereby contributing to a more comprehensive understanding and mediation of the project;
- Develop a research focus in accordance with the programme mentor;
- Participate in the educational programmes of Ocean Space, assisting Ocean Educations to run workshops and tours for children, young adults and university students on topics related to the exhibition *Oceans in Transformation*;
- Explore Venice and its ecosystem in order to further expand the topics that *Oceans in Transformation* tackles within its research trajectories.

## 6. WHAT WE OFFER

- An allowance of 3,000 Euro for the whole duration of the programme. This may be subject to tax and fellowship status will have to be determined on a case by case basis;
- Expand your field of research through a transdisciplinary approach, overseen by TBA21–Academy and its network of partners, including universities, NGOs, museums, government agencies, and research institutes from around the world;
- The opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Venice and its ecosystem through working with the Ocean Space team;
- Be part of an international network dedicated to ocean research and contemporary art;
- To gain practical and theoretical training in institutional practice;
- To contemplate the role of art institutions in contemporary society.

The mentor is expected to be in Venice throughout the duration of the programme. Total allowance of 15,000 Euro for the duration of the programme. This may be subject to tax and employment status will have to be determined on a case by case basis. Travel and visa costs are not covered.

NB: travel, visa and accommodation costs are not covered by the programme.

## 7. WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- Undergraduates, master and PhD level students, recent graduates or young professionals at the beginning of their carriers with a specialisation in the fields listed under section 2 (Academic Fields of Research);
- Fluency in spoken and written English, Italian is a plus;
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to explain complex subjects to different segments of the public;
- An interest in expanding knowledge on oceanic issues;
- The ability to demonstrate how the fellowship will allow the fellows to further their studies and own research areas;
- A commitment for the whole duration of the internship placement.
- For the mentor, a graduate or post-graduate degree as well as some relevant experience in teaching or mentoring is required.

TBA21–Academy and Ocean Space are committed to maintaining a diverse working environment and are an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, colour, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.

## 8. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Fill out the Application Form below.
- Attach your CV in English (maximum 4 pages);
- A letter of motivation in English outlining ideas to be explored during the Ocean Fellows Programme (maximum 700 words), indicating your period preference for joining the Ocean Fellows Programme (March – June) (June – September) or your application as Research Mentor;
- Names and contact details of two professionals or academic referees familiar with the research of the applicant.

## 9. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Please send the material in one single .pdf file by January 20, 2020 to [oceanfellows@tba21-academy.org](mailto:oceanfellows@tba21-academy.org)

## 10. SELECTION PROCEDURE

TBA21–Academy and Ocean Space will select the candidates by January 30, 2020. The selected candidates will be informed of the jury's decision by email.

## 11. ABOUT

### **TBA21–Academy**

TBA21–Academy leads artists, scientists, and thought-leaders on expeditions of collaborative discovery. Dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding of the ocean through the lens of art and to engendering creative solutions to its most pressing issues, TBA21–Academy commissions interdisciplinary research that catalyses engagement, stimulates new knowledge and inspires artistic production. Established in 2011, the non-profit’s program is informed by a belief in the power of exchange between disciplines and in the ability of the arts to serve as a vessel for communication, change, and action.

### **About Ocean Space**

Ocean Space, a new global centre for catalysing ocean literacy, research, and advocacy through the arts, is open to the public in the newly revitalised Church of San Lorenzo in Venice. Spearheaded by TBA21–Academy and building on its expansive work over the past eight years, this new embassy for the oceans fosters greater engagement and collective action on the most pressing issues facing the oceans today. For more information, visit [Ocean Space website](#).

### **Contacts**

For any queries please contact [oceanfellows@tba21-academy.org](mailto:oceanfellows@tba21-academy.org)

**Scroll down for the application form.**

**Fill in and submit with your documents.**



# OCEAN FELLOWSHIP

## Application form

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_

First (given) names: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### LANGUAGE

(please underline the level)

English:    none    fair    good    fluent

Italian:    none    fair    good    fluent

Other:

\_\_\_\_\_    none    fair    good    fluent

\_\_\_\_\_    none    fair    good    fluent

### TIME-SLOT

Are you applying for [please underline your answer]:

Tue, March 10 – Sun, June 14, 2020

Mon, June 15 – Sun, Sept 27, 2020

In case your time-slot preference will not be available, will you be able to attend the Program in the other period anyway?

Yes            No

### APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

**The following documents must be included with this form when e-mailing your application. Incomplete applications will not be considered for selection:**

#### A. FILLED OUT APPLICATION FORM

#### B. LETTER OF MOTIVATION

Please provide a letter of motivation in English outlining ideas to be explored during the Ocean Fellows Programme (700 words) and indicating your period preference for joining the programme (March – June) (June – September).

### C. CV / RESUME

Please include internship and work experience, a list of relevant academic courses, and language skills (maximum 4 pages).

### D. UNIVERSITY TRANSCRIPTS (optional)

### E. NAMES AND CONTACTS OF TWO REFEREES

Please provide names and contact details of two professionals or academic referees familiar with your research.

Please list below the names, titles and contact information of two references, including e-mail and telephone number.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

If you require flexibility of your schedule during the Ocean Fellows Programme because of University classes and exams, or other important reasons, please indicate here below. TBA21–Academy and Ocean Space will try its best possible to accommodate candidates needs according to their university mandatory activities, especially for the first Ocean Fellows Group (March 10 – June 14, 2020).

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about this program?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the applicant

### Data protection note

Please note your personal data will be taken by this form and are to be **used** for the administration process of the above mentioned programme. **Your personal data** are stored for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes for which they were collected or in compliance with legal obligations. You have the right to **object** at any time to the processing activity as well as the right of access to the data, the right of rectification, the right to erasure, the right to restriction of processing and the right to data portability. You may exercise your rights by writing an email to [privacy@tba21.org](mailto:privacy@tba21.org). Additionally, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the competent data protection authority.