



## **Career Integration Fellowships for Western-Educated Economists Returning to the Region**

### **2026 Application Round**

The CERGE-EI Foundation Teaching Fellows Program aims to strengthen economics education in selected countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans, Central Asia, and the South Caucasus (hereafter “the region”). We are now accepting applications for the Career Integration Fellowship (CIF) program for fellows starting in Fall 2026.

The CIF program supports Western-educated economists returning to the region who hold a Doctorate or, at minimum, a Master’s degree from North America, Australia/New Zealand, or Western Europe and who have secured a full-time academic position in the region. The fellowship supplements university salaries, helping bridge the financial gap between academia and the private sector, while also providing access to CERGE-EI’s academic resources and professional development opportunities.

### **Fellowship Benefits**

Fellows receive:

- An annual stipend of **USD 8,000 for two years** to supplement their university salary.
- The opportunity to submit papers to the CERGE-EI Working Paper Series, with editing services provided by the CERGE-EI Academic Skills Center for accepted work.
- An invitation to spend up to three weeks at CERGE-EI in Prague as a visiting researcher, with travel and accommodation costs covered for those residing outside Prague.
- The opportunity to consult with CERGE-EI faculty and researchers on pedagogical and research topics of mutual interest.

### **Eligibility**

Applicants must:

- Hold a Ph.D. or, at minimum, a Master’s degree in economics or a related field from a university in North America, Australia/New Zealand, or Western Europe, or from a U.S.-accredited/chartered program in Central or Eastern Europe<sup>1</sup>. Near-graduates expecting to defend their Ph.D. thesis within the first year of the fellowship are also eligible.

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<sup>1</sup> Currently including CERGE-EI, CEU, NES, KSE, ISET and SSE Riga



- Hold a full-time academic position at a non-profit (public or private) university in an eligible country in Central and Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans, Central Asia, or the South Caucasus, or have secured such a position starting no later than October 2026.
- Carry a teaching load of at least **three economics courses** (broadly defined) per academic year.

### **Selection Criteria & Regional Prioritization**

The Career Integration Fellowship is highly competitive, and **due to funding constraints, fewer fellowships will be awarded than in previous years**. Applicants should be aware that meeting eligibility criteria does not guarantee selection.

In 2026, priority will be given to applicants taking academic positions in regions with limited alternative funding opportunities. Preference will therefore be given to those teaching in the Western Balkans, South Caucasus, and Central Asia, with particular focus on the countries listed below:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Applications from other countries in the broader region may be considered in exceptional cases, subject to available funding and alignment with program priorities.

Other selection factors include:

- Holding a Ph.D.
- Training at a highly-ranked research university
- Teaching a greater number of undergraduate courses with large enrollment.
- Starting an academic career rather than continuing an established one.
- Teaching at a university where the applicant's presence will have the greatest academic impact.

### **Application Process & Deadlines**

The deadline for all application materials is **Friday 17 April 2026**, for fellowships starting in Fall 2026.

Applicants should submit:



1. **Online Registration:** Complete the short online form at [https://tf.cerge-ei-foundation.org/application\\_CIF/](https://tf.cerge-ei-foundation.org/application_CIF/) and upload a current CV.
2. **Supporting Documents** (to be submitted via email to [teaching.fellows@cerge-ei-foundation.org](mailto:teaching.fellows@cerge-ei-foundation.org)):
  1. A letter or email from the Dean or Department Chair confirming the job offer, describing the teaching program, and affirming that the fellowship will not affect university compensation.
  2. A letter of recommendation from the applicant's dissertation chair (can be a scan or sent directly to the email with applicant's surname in the subject heading by the recommender).
  3. A brief job description outlining teaching responsibilities, course enrollment, and other duties.
  4. A Motivation Statement explaining why the applicant is returning to the region and how they plan to contribute to their university and society.

Applicants are encouraged to submit the online registration early. Supporting documents may be submitted later but must be received by **17 April 2026**. A selection committee will review all applications and determine the final list of fellows. Applicants will be notified of selection decisions **by the end of May 2026**.

### **Training Requirement**

All first-time Teaching Fellows must attend and satisfactorily complete a one-week training course, tentatively scheduled for **late August/early September 2026** in Prague. **Participation is mandatory**, and alternative arrangements will not be available. The CERGE-EI Foundation will cover all travel and accommodation costs for this event.