The International Youth Library’s fellowship programme has two primary goals: to support research in the field of international children’s and youth literature and illustration, and to promote academic exchange and international cooperation.

Through the fellowship programme, which has been funded by the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany for 50 years, the International Youth Library would like to encourage comparative research about literature for children and youth in an increasingly networked world. At the same time we would like to encourage the academic use of our international collection of books for children and youth, which spans 400 years.

The International Youth Library offers academic fellowships for up to 12 scholars each year. The length of the stay can range from six weeks to four months. Scholars work on research projects that they have already started in their home countries. In the application, scholars must explain the academic relevancy of the project, and demonstrate that access to the collection of the International Youth Library is necessary for completion of the research project because of insufficient access to needed primary and secondary literature in their home countries. Applications from junior scholars are especially welcome.

The International Youth Library, housed in the late-medieval Blutenburg Castle, boasts the world’s largest collection of international children’s and youth literature. The unique collection includes more than 580,000 children’s and youth books in more than 130 languages, published during the past 400 years. Additionally, there are nearly 30,000 international reference titles, as well as almost 130 current periodicals. The growth of the collection is supported by approximately 1,000 international publishing houses, which regularly donate their latest titles to the International Youth Library.

Fellowship holders work in the reading room of the research library and are supported by staff members in both the content and organizational aspects of their research projects. Our international scholars are invited to take part in our events and to describe their research projects at roundtable discussions. We also assist with the organization of visits to other libraries and research facilities.

Application requirements:
• Academic qualification
• International focus of the research project
• Sufficient fluency in either German or English
• Non-German citizenship

Deadline for applications: September 30th for a fellowship stay in the following year.

For more information:
Visit the International Youth Library’s website: www.ijb.de E-mail: direktion@ijb.de