

Call for Applications: Next Generation Scholars on India and the Indo-Pacific

The GIGA is an independent, publicly funded social science research institute and member of the Leibniz Association, focusing on Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East, and on cross-regional and global issues. The GIGA is committed to knowledge exchange with the policy world, civil society, the private sector, media, and the general public, ensuring that its expertise is both accessible and impactful.

In cooperation with the European Council on Foreign Relations and funded by Stiftung Mercator, the GIGA co-hosts the Community and Expertise on Indo-Pacific in Europe (CEIPE) initiative. CEIPE aims to strengthen European expertise on India and the Indo-Pacific by supporting a new generation of professionals through training, mentorship, networking, and publication opportunities. We invite applications for

Next Generation Scholars on India and the Indo-Pacific

Designed as an opportunity to establish and deepen expertise alongside participants' employment or studies, this unique programme brings together a pan-European cohort of 25 emerging researchers, journalists, and practitioners with an interest in India and the Indo-Pacific.

What the Programme Offers

Selected participants will benefit from:

- **Participation in four expert-led workshops** at the GIGA (Neuer Jungfernstieg 21, 20354 Hamburg, Germany), over two years, providing substantive, interdisciplinary, and policy-relevant expertise on India and its role in the Indo-Pacific
- **Direct engagement with leading researchers, policymakers, diplomats, journalists, and other practitioners** working on India and the Indo-Pacific through interactive discussions and networking opportunities
- **Mentorship and editorial support** to develop policy briefs, academic publications, or journalistic articles that contribute to informed public and policy debates on India and the Indo-Pacific
- **Funding and advisory support for individual field research** in India and/or the Indo-Pacific
- Membership in a **pan-European network of emerging experts on India and the Indo-Pacific**, fostering lasting professional connections
- Access to **additional CEIPE events** and activities, including various policy dialogues and networking opportunities throughout the programme

The programme requires participation in four in-person workshops in Hamburg (2 days each, to be held between December 2026 and August 2028). The first workshop will be on

December 7-8, 2026. Travel and accommodation costs for the workshops will be covered by the programme. Additional funding for individual research stays in the region is available. Participation in publications and networking events is optional but strongly encouraged. The working language of the programme is English. The programme does not include salaries in any shape or form.

Your Profile

This call targets three groups of early-career professionals

- **Early-career postdoctoral and doctoral researchers** with policy-relevant research agendas related to Indian and Indo-Pacific affairs
- **Early-career journalists** covering international politics and/or European foreign relations with an interest in Indian and Indo-Pacific affairs
- **Early-career officials** from European government ministries and EU institutions whose work is potentially relevant to European relations with India

We look for applicants with the potential to make a difference in how European policy-makers and publics view and interact with India and the Indo-Pacific.

Pre-existing expertise on India is not a precondition for participation. Instead, the programme aims to foster interest by way of bringing promising young thinkers and practitioners closer to a country and region destined to play an ever more important role for Europe.

Applicants must be **residents of EU member states, the United Kingdom, Norway, or Switzerland**.

Application Process

Candidates should submit their application no later than **September 30, 2026**. Applications should be submitted as a single PDF file containing the following documents:

- CV, including a list of publications if applicable (please do not include a photograph)
- Motivation letter, including a statement outlining your interest in India and the Indo-Pacific (no more than two pages)

Screening of applications will begin on October 1, 2026.

Applications should be sent via email to the project coordinator at the GIGA, Mahima Duggal (mahima.duggal@giga-hamburg.de), with the subject line "CEIPE NextGen Scholars Application – [Applicant Name]". Please use the same email address for any further questions.