Call For Applications

CyberBRICS Fellowships 2027 on the Future of Digital Infrastructure

Hosted by CTS-FGV, the Center for Technology and Society at FGV Rio Law, Rio de Janeiro, and part of the Fellows in Rio Programme.

Deadline for applications: 31 January 2027

CTS-FGV, the Center for Technology and Society at FGV Rio Law, Rio de Janeiro is pleased to announce the 2027 edition of the **CyberBRICS Fellowships**, part of the FGV Rio Law's "Fellows in Rio" programme, which will be dedicated to the Future of Digital Infrastructure and will closely interact with the newly created AI Hub of CTS-FGV.

The program aims to support a selected group of highly qualified postgraduate, doctoral, and post-doctoral students working in the areas related to the 2027-28 work plan of the CyberBRICS research programme, namely **digital sovereignty, industrial policy, and economic development in the context of digital infrastructure.** Research will address **i) governance and regulation; ii) safety and security; iii) economic inclusion; iii) consumer protection; iv) competition**; and **v) the expanding role of AI.** These themes will be explored across the original **BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, as well as and the recently added members: Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.**

The programme will offer 11 fellowships for **a duration of up to 6 (six) months**, from July to November 2027 FGV RIO LAW, providing economic, intellectual, and networking resources to support selected scholars coming from the BRICS or having proven experience in the study of at least one of the BRICS countries. **There is also the possibility for fellows to extend their CyberBRICS Fellowship for an additional period**.

About FGV

Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) is a world-renowned institution of research and quality education. Since 2021, FGV has been ranked as the third most influential think tank in the world and the most influential in Latin America, according to the Global Go To Think Tanks Index, produced by the Pennsylvania University.

About CTS-FGV

The Center for Technology and Society at FGV Rio Law, Rio de Janeiro was founded in 2003, becoming the first research centre to have been established in Brazil to analyse the impact of technology on society. The mission of CTS-FGV is to study the legal, social, and cultural implications arising from the advancement of information and communication technologies. CTS-FGV is committed to openness, democracy, fundamental rights, inclusion, gender balance and non-discrimination, and the preservation of the public interest in technological progress.

About the CyberBRICS programme

The CyberBRICS programme is the only existing research initiative dedicated to the analysis of digital policies in the BRICS countries and was established at CTS-FGV in 2018. The triple purpose of the CyberBRICS project is to map existing regulations, identify limitations and best practices, and suggest policy solutions for shared problems. Particularly, the project aims at exploring the conditions and factors shaping digital transformation in BRICS countries. The project builds upon the work developed since its inception, in terms of research outcomes, a strong and unique international network, recognised academic credibility and high quality research.

BRICS countries are particularly relevant not only as they represent more than 30% of global GDP and approximately 42% of the world population, but because the policies, institutional arrangements, and technologies they are developing are increasingly influential, especially in other emerging economies. Such relevance is likely to continue to increase considering the recent addition of six new members to the BRICS grouping. Although the

national approaches of the BRICS countries remain different in many respects, they converge in several areas of digital governance.

Professor Luca Belli directs the CyberBRICS programme. Detailed information about CyberBRICS research outcomes, events, previous and current fellows, and team members can be found at www.cyberBRICS.info. Further enquiries about the CyberBRICS programme should be directed at cts@fgv.br.

1. APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process is composed of two stages. The **First Stage** consists of **evaluation** of the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae (Brazilian candidates should send their CV in Lattes format)
- Links to two (2) samples of published material, in English, in at least one of the CyberBRICS areas of interest for the Future of Digital Infrastructure Fellowship (*i.e.* digital sovereignty, industrial policy, and economic development in the context of digital infrastructure, and specifically in relation to i) governance and regulation; ii) safety and security; iii) economic inclusion, iii) consumer protection, iv) competition, and v) the expanding role of AI, with a focus on one of the countries in the expanded BRICS grouping)
- A reference letter.

Documents should be sent by **January 31 2026** to both CTS-FGV, using the email **cts@fgv.br**, and FGV Law Rio Law Office of International Affairs, using the email, **cri.direitorio@fgv.br,** with the **Subject Line: "CyberBRICS Fellowship – [candidate's name]".**

The **Second Stage** will consist of **interviews** with selected candidates and will take place from **1 to 15 February 2027**. The Center for Technology and Society at FGV Rio Law will release the results of the selection process by **20 February 2027.**

2. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants should preferably be a national of, or have an academic affiliation with an institution in one of the countries of the expanded BRICS grouping. Applicants should be currently **pursuing or have recently completed a doctoral degree** in law or in political science, computer science or economics. Candidates must have **professional written and spoken command of the English language** and demonstrate they have already published research in English.

Applications from **candidates holding a master´s degree and demonstrating relevant professional working experience** in one of the issue areas of the project will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. **We strongly encourage applications from members of BIPOC communities, immigrants and refugees, and LGBTQ+ individuals**.

3. SELECTED CANDIDATES

Up to **11 (eleven) candidates** – one per BRICS member – will be approved in the selection process. Candidates´ fellowship activities will be expected to run from **June to November 2027**; however, the fellowship's start and end date may be negotiated, on a case-by-case basis, to meet the special needs of the candidates.

Selected candidates are responsible for submitting all documents required for the fellowship agreement to the Human Resources Department of FGV Rio Law and for responding to communications in a timely manner. Please note that FGV RIO LAW will provide assistance and supporting documentation, but **non-Brazilian candidates will be ultimately responsible for obtaining the appropriate visa (VITEM 1) at the local Brazilian Embassy or Consulate** and all necessary authorisation for living and working in Brazil.

Selected candidates will receive office space and are expected to work at FGV RIO LAW in Praia de Botafogo 190, Rio de Janeiro, from Monday to Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM, during the fellowship period. Any substantial absences should be agreed with the programme coordinators. CyberBRICS Fellows will be free to pursue their non-CyberBRICS-related research during this time only as long as such activities do not prejudice the fulfilment of their CyberBRICS Fellowship research obligations.

4. REMUNERATION

Selected CyberBRICS Research Fellows holding a PhD will receive up to 6 (six) instalments of **R$ 8,000** per month throughout the duration of the fellowship. Generally, fellows need to use approximately half of the remuneration for their basic expenses (housing and food) as R$ 8,000 corresponds to 5 times the minimum wage in Brazil.

Selected candidates may apply to the Center for Technology and Society at FGV for **travel support** *i.e.* economy class airplane tickets. **Selected candidates holding a PhD will be able to obtain a Postdoctoral certificate issued by the postgraduate programme of FGV Rio Law.**

A Brazilian bank account, including a Brazilian bank card, will be opened for each selected candidate upon arrival, to facilitate receipt of their salary. The process of opening a bank account may take up to 60 days, and candidates are responsible for the timely provision of necessary documentation. FGV is not responsible for any delays. The account will be opened and may be closed by the fellow at the end of their fellowship at no additional expense.

5. EXPECTED ACTIVITIES

The main responsibilities of CyberBRICS Fellows 2027 will be to **conduct research on digital sovereignty, industrial policy, and economic development in the context of digital infrastructure, and specifically in relation to i) governance and regulation; ii) safety and security; iii) economic inclusion, iii) consumer protection, iv) competition, and v) the expanding role of AI in one of the BRICS countries.** Fellows will be required to give presentations and might be required to teach a limited number of classes to undergrad and master students.

Fellows will be required to design a research plan including the minimum research outputs, the presentations they commit to deliver, and their delivery dates.

CyberBRICS Fellows will be expected to **participate and present their work in faculty research seminars and workshops** organised by FGV Rio Law and a wide range of partner organisations, including the Brazilian government, international organisations, businesses, and civil society organisations.

In case they wish to do so, besides their research and teaching commitments, CyberBRICS Fellows will be free to: (i) deliver lectures (undergraduate or graduate levels) on subjects of their interest; (ii) promote professional coaching for students of the undergraduate and masters programs; (iii) orient, tutor or participate in the evaluation of thesis and

dissertations of undergraduate students; (iv) join ongoing research projects or engage in collaborative research with FGV Rio Law professors; (v) offer courses in English to FGV Rio Law students; (vi) cooperate in the activities of the LLM and Doctoral programmes in Regulation.