Programme Information

Humboldt Research Fellowships
for experienced researchers

Humboldt Research Fellowships for experienced researchers are the instrument with which the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation enables highly-qualified scientists and scholars from abroad, who completed their doctorates less than twelve years ago¹ to spend extended periods of research (6-18 months; may be divided up into a maximum of three blocks) in Germany. Candidates are expected to have their own, clearly defined research profile. This means they should usually be working at least at the level of Assistant Professor or Junior Research Group Leader or be able to document independent research work over a number of years. Scientists and scholars from all disciplines and countries may apply.

Research projects are carried out in cooperation with academic hosts at research institutions in Germany. Candidates choose their own research projects and their host in Germany and prepare their own research plan. Details of the research project and the time schedule must be agreed upon with the prospective host in advance. The duration of the research fellowship (6-18 months) may be divided up into a maximum of three visits lasting a minimum of three months each. No more than 36 months may elapse between the beginning of the first stay and the end of the last stay. Short-term visits for study and training purposes or for attending conferences are not eligible for sponsorship.

Candidates are selected solely on the basis of their academic record. There are no quotas for individual disciplines or countries. The most important criteria for assessment are:
- academic publications in internationally-reviewed journals and for publishing houses;
- statements on the candidate’s academic profile and potential contained in the expert references submitted by the candidate from various institutions and, if possible, various countries;
- the academic quality and feasibility of the research proposal submitted by the candidate. Applications are assessed by independent peer reviewers appointed by the Humboldt Foundation. The final decision is taken by a committee composed of academics from all disciplines.

Fellowship specifications

The fellowship is worth 2,450 EUR per month. This includes a mobility lump sum and a contribution towards health and liability insurance.

Additional benefits:
- an allowance for research costs to be paid to the hosts in Germany amounting to 800 EUR per month (for research projects in the natural sciences and engineering) and 500 EUR (for research projects in the humanities and social sciences);
- language fellowship for an intensive language course for the fellow and his/her marital partner lasting two to four months at selected language institutes in Germany immediately prior to the actual period of research;
- lump sum for the fellow's return travel expenses if the costs are not borne by a third party;
- family allowances for visits by family members lasting at least three months (up to 326 EUR for the marital partner and up to 234 EUR per month for each child);

¹ Researchers who completed their doctorates less than four years ago may apply for “Humboldt Research Fellowships for postdoctoral researchers”.

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- **Europe allowance** for a research stay at a research institute in another European country (though not the research fellow’s own country); for a designated period in the course of the fellowship if necessary to ensure the success of the research project;
- **extensive alumni sponsorship** once a successful research stay has come to an end, especially for maintaining contact with collaborative partners in Germany during the Humboldtian’s entire academic career.

**Application requirements**

1. **Doctorate** or comparable academic degree (Ph.D., C.Sc. or equivalent), completed less than twelve years prior to the date of application. If it is not possible or customary to take a doctorate in the candidate’s subject or country, an application may be submitted up to 16 years after completing a Master’s or Diploma degree, provided that the publication record is commensurate with the candidate’s career stage.
2. The candidate’s **own research profile** documented by a comprehensive list of academic publications reviewed according to international standards and printed in journals and/or by publishing houses.
3. **Confirmation that research facilities are available** and a detailed expert’s report by an academic host at a research institution in Germany.
4. **Expert references** from important collaborative partners and/or academics from the candidate’s own institute and, if possible, from abroad.
5. **Language skills**: scholars in the humanities or social sciences and physicians must have a good knowledge of German if it is necessary to carry out the project successfully; otherwise a good knowledge of English; scientists and engineers must have a good knowledge of German or English.

Potential applicants who have been in Germany for more than six months at the time of application should check with the Humboldt Foundation (info@avh.de) whether formal requirements have been met before submitting their application documents.

Academics who have already been sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation are not eligible to apply for the Humboldt Research Fellowship Programme but should turn to the Foundation’s Alumni Programme for support for further research stays.

**Application procedure**

Applications may be sent to the following address at any time:

**Alexander von Humboldt Foundation**
**Selection Department**
Jean-Paul-Str. 12, 53173 Bonn, Germany

If this is not possible, they may be forwarded to the Humboldt Foundation via the branch offices of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) or the missions of the Federal Republic of Germany abroad.

Please be sure to only use valid application documents, which can be downloaded at the program’s website or obtained from the Foundation directly.

Reviewing the applications takes three to six months. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that he or she has submitted all the necessary documents. Applications not submitted as a single entity will take longer to process. Grossly incomplete applications will be returned to applicants unprocessed.

Further information on the selection procedure can be found in the FAQ on the Humboldt Foundation’s website.

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Further details pertaining to the fellowship and to the research stay can be found in our Guidelines and Advice for Research Fellows. Moreover, the Rules of Good Scientific Practice and the ethical rules of the 7th EU Framework Programme apply both to applications and sponsorship.