



## Family allowance for partners

Partners are spouses and civil partners, as well as unmarried and non-registered partners, who live together with joint children in a shared household or jointly care for children in a shared household.

For partners accompanying research fellows to Germany for a period of at least 3 months (without interruption), an application may be submitted for a family allowance of EUR 276 per month during the sponsorship period. If the partner does not require a visa to enter Germany, digital copies (as a scan, for example) of the family status documents (marriage certificate, proof of civil partnership, children's birth certificates, etc.) must be submitted to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation along with the application. The Foundation reserves the right to request a certified copy (or original version) of the family status documents. [The application form and further information](#) are available on the Foundation's website.

Partners' additional earnings are offset against the family allowance. When determining additional earnings, an amount equal to the applicable earnings level for employees not subject to social insurance is exempt (currently EUR 538 gross per month). Fellowships and partial fellowships from private German and foreign bodies also constitute imputable supplementary income.

Payment of the allowance is discontinued when the partner leaves Germany. Wherever possible, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation should be notified of their departure 4 weeks in advance. The Foundation should also be informed immediately of any change in the circumstances upon which the decision to grant the allowance was based.

### **For fellows accompanied by children under 15 months the following applies:**

For children of nationals of the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA) – Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus (Greek part), The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden – and Switzerland a **parental allowance ("Elterngeld")** according to German law (Federal Parental Allowance Act, "BEEG") can be applied for from the day of the child's birth until the end of the 14th month. This also applies to research fellows' partners from other countries who spend at least 6 months (without interruption) with their children in Germany. In all these cases, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation cannot grant a family allowance. Should the application for a parental allowance be turned down, please get in touch with the Foundation enclosing a copy of the refusal notice and of the partner's residence permit. On principle, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation can only grant a family allowance

for partners if it can be confirmed that, during the period applied for, a parental allowance according to German law is not being or has not been paid.

The above regulations also apply in the event of sponsorship for renewed research stays in Germany.

In order to facilitate your **application for parental allowance** under German law please refer to the brief information on the Federal Parental Allowance Act below. You can also find further information on parental allowance on the Internet page on "Elterngeld" at: <https://www.bmfsfj.de/resource/blob/139908/f2abd20a4de020738a8a912e0958a52b/elterngeld-elternzeit-englisch-data.pdf>

Brief information on the Federal Parental Allowance Act

### **Parental allowance: Basiselterngeld or ElterngeldPlus?**

We recommend that you apply for Basiselterngeld. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation cannot grant a family allowance for your partner while you are in receipt of parental allowance. ElterngeldPlus is paid for twice as long as Basiselterngeld, but at a maximum rate of half your monthly Basiselterngeld entitlement. If, for example, you are entitled to the minimum Basiselterngeld rate of EUR 300 per month, ElterngeldPlus would be paid at EUR 150 per month.

### **Where to apply for parental allowance**

- Baden-Württemberg: Landeskreditbank Karlsruhe
- Bayern, Hessen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Saarland: Versorgungsämter
- Berlin: Bezirksämter (Jugendamt)
- Brandenburg, Rheinland-Pfalz, Thüringen: Jugendämter
- Bremen: Amt für Soziale Dienste (Bremerhaven: Amt für Familie und Jugend)
- Hamburg: Einwohneramt
- Niedersachsen: Kreisfreie Städte, Landkreise, in einigen Fällen auch kreisangehörige Gemeinden
- Nordrhein-Westfalen: Kreise und kreisfreie Städte
- Sachsen: Landkreise und kreisfreie Städte
- Sachsen-Anhalt: Landesverwaltungsamt
- Schleswig-Holstein: Außenstellen des Landesamtes für Soziale Dienste

## **Who has the right to apply**

Parents are eligible to apply if they

- are resident in or have their usual place of residence in Germany
- live together with their children in one abode and have custody of these children
- care for and educate the children themselves
- are not employed for more than 30 hours per week

## **Foreign parents**

Partners accompanying Humboldt Foundation research fellows are eligible to apply for parental allowance as soon as they have been granted a residence permit (or settlement permit) by the responsible immigration authorities in Germany which grant or have granted permission to pursue gainful employment. Nationals of EU and EEA states or Switzerland merely have to present proof of registration to document their place of residence.

## **Entitlement period**

Parental allowance may be claimed for the first 14 months of a child's life or for each child in cases of multiple births. Each parent may only claim parental allowance for a maximum of 12 months. Parental allowance is granted for the months of a child's life and retroactively for a maximum of 3 months prior to application. If one of the preconditions for entitlement ceases to be fulfilled before the child has completed the 14<sup>th</sup> month of life, entitlement ends at the end of the month in which this occurs.

## **Amount of parental allowance**

Parental allowance is income-related from the birth of the child and amounts to a minimum of EUR 300 and a maximum of EUR 1,800 per month. In the case of multiple births an additional EUR 300 per month is paid for the second and every further multiple.

## **Calculating income**

The basis for calculation is the average adjusted net income per month available to the mother or father prior to the birth of the child. In the case of self-employment, profit counts as income.