

Guidelines for completing the nomination

(For further details please refer to our [FAQs](#).)

Required / enclosed documents:

- a) Fully completed nomination form
- b) Personal statement by the nominator (laudation, academic appraisal)
- c) Information on the invitation to Germany
- d) Expert references
- e) List of the nominee's publications
- f) Reprints/copies

Please bear in mind that processing the nomination normally takes up to six months.

Selection Committee meetings are held twice a year – currently at the beginning of spring and in early autumn.

All nomination documents have to be written in **German or English**. Please do not use any folders, sheet protectors or staples.

Please send a single copy of all documents by post to:

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Selection Department
Jean-Paul-Straße 12

53173 Bonn
Germany

for a) Nomination form

Please fill in the [form](#) **completely**, paying special attention to the following aspects:

- Programme eligibility: Academics from abroad, regardless of their discipline or nationality, may be nominated for a Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award, provided that they **have received their doctoral degree within the past 18 years**. Their accomplishments in research to date should have earned them recognition as internationally outstanding specialist researchers who, it is assumed, will continue producing cutting-edge achievements and have a lasting impact beyond their area of specialisation.
- Nomination entitlement: An established academic who is employed by a university or other research institution in Germany must take the initiative to nominate a candidate for the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award. Involvement of the university or institute administration is not required. **Self-nomination** for the Friedrich Bessel Research Award **is not possible**.
- Points 6, 7 and 8: Please start with the conferral date of the doctoral degree and enter only the information that is requested in the form. An additional detailed curriculum vitae is not required.

- Point 9: Please indicate the nominee's area(s) of specialisation using the [research area index](#) that is available online.
- Point 10: The key terms describing the nominee's research area serve to identify suitable independent peer reviewers. Please bear this fact in mind when selecting the terms.
- Point 11: Please provide a brief description of the nominee's previous outstanding research accomplishments (maximum of 20 lines). This information will be used for quick reference by the interdisciplinary Selection Committee and does not replace the laudation. Please attach the laudation as a separate document (see section b).
- Point 12: Please provide a brief statement (maximum of 20 lines) on how you expect the award to stimulate the research area and the academic network in Germany (e.g. form and degree of collaboration and scientific exchange as well as potential research results). This information will serve as a quick reference for the interdisciplinary Selection Committee.
- Point 13: The timing of the research stay in Germany that is part of the research award can be arranged flexibly between the award winner and his or her chosen academic host. As a matter of principle, a research stay can begin no earlier than two months after the selection decision. Any indication as to the potential dates for the research stay in Germany will help the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to plan and provide administrative support with regard to visa etc.

for b) Personal statement by the nominator (laudation, academic appraisal)

Minimum of two pages

The laudation serves to illustrate the nominee's international excellence from the **nominator's point of view**. Your statement should convince the specialist community that the academic you are nominating is the right candidate for the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award. Please address the following aspects, in particular:

- The nominee's international reputation and his or her personality in general.
- Describe the discoveries, recognised theories or insights that he or she has achieved as well as their impact on the field.
- How do you assess his or her publication activity, especially in the past five years?
- Explain which research projects the nominee is currently conducting.
- What future academic activities is he or she planning?
- What outstanding academic accomplishments do you expect from the nominee in the future? (This and the preceding question should be considered independently and not in connection with an invitation to Germany in the context of this award.)
- In your opinion, how will the research field benefit from the conferment of the research award?

for c) Information on the invitation to Germany

Up to two pages

Please do not provide a research plan here, but give an overview of the following aspects in addition to the laudation:

- Shared research interests of nominee and nominator
- The nominee's possible research projects in collaboration with the nominator or other specialist colleagues in Germany.

If the award is conferred, the winner is free to select his or her collaborative partners in Germany regardless of whether they were nominators or co-nominators. They may not even have been involved in the nomination.

for d) Expert references

- Please forward our list of questions to three expert reviewers of your choice and ask them to send their references **directly** to the Humboldt Foundation. You can find the programme information and the list of questions online at our [website](#).

The Humboldt Foundation requires **one** reference from an academic based in Germany and **two** references from academics permanently based abroad. Please understand that we cannot take into consideration any additional references that may be submitted in connection with your application.

- Please refrain from naming any expert reviewers who are based at the nominee's or your own institution. Please select a diverse international group of expert reviewers as proof of the nominee's international reputation. The selected expert reviewers should be internationally renowned researchers themselves.

for e) List of the nominee's publications

You must provide a complete, chronologically ordered list of the nominee's academic publications over the **last ten years** (stating all the authors, title, publisher/journal, edition, **first and last page number**), including any relevant published conference presentations and patents. For patents please indicate the current legal status (i.e. submitted, laid-open, issued), as well as the complete title, the date of submission and the patent number.

for f) Reprints / Copies

Please submit reprints or copies of some of the nominee's important recent academic publications (one copy each).

As of: 10/2009