



Programme Information

Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award

An Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and Fraunhofer Gesellschaft International Research Award

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft for the Promotion of Applied Research e.V. and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation grant up to three research awards annually to internationally renowned academics **from all non-European countries**¹ in recognition of their outstanding academic performance in **applied research** to date.

Academics can be nominated for the award if their accomplishments in applied research to date have earned them recognition as internationally outstanding specialist researchers and if they are expected to continue producing cutting-edge academic achievements and have a lasting impact beyond their area of specialisation.

Academics of all disciplines can be nominated for the Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award, **provided that they have received their doctoral degree within the past 18 years**. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation particularly encourages the nomination of qualified female academics.

In addition, award winners will be invited to conduct a research project of their own choosing with a specialist colleague at one of the Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany. The project duration of six to twelve months may be divided into segments.

The award amount totals 45,000 EUR. In Germany, research awards are generally exempt from income tax under German tax law. In addition, further expenditures (such as travel or language courses) are covered in the context of the invitation to stay in Germany for research purposes. For more details please refer to [General Regulations and Information for Award Winners](#).

Nomination Entitlement

A director or senior academic of a Fraunhofer Institute must take the initiative to nominate a candidate for the Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award. Nominations may also be initiated by award winners of the Humboldt Foundation working abroad, provided that the nomination is made jointly with a colleague working at a Fraunhofer Institute in Germany. Close relatives (parents, brothers/sisters, children) and spouses/partners are not eligible for nomination. Self-nomination is not possible.

Nomination Requirements

The nominee's outstanding academic qualification must be internationally recognised and documented by corresponding successes in applied research, such as positively received academic publications.

¹ Academics from EU member states as well as EFTA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) are not eligible for a Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award.

The Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award can only be granted once to any one academic. Researchers who have already received an award for their academic achievement from the Humboldt Foundation are not eligible to be nominated.

Furthermore, the nominee should not have recently won any awards or fellowships in Germany for his or her academic achievements. At the time of nomination, the nominated candidate must have been predominantly living and working abroad for at least five years. Moreover, the nominee must not have held or accepted an offer of permanent employment in Germany prior to the selection date. In cases of doubt, please contact the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in advance.

The nominating academic must guarantee that he or she can provide the necessary infrastructure for the award winner's own research projects or lecture tours (e.g. access to libraries, materials, facilities). German hosts are also expected to be well prepared for the award winner's research stay and to act as his or her personal mentor (e.g. finding accommodation).

Selection Procedure

An independent Selection Committee appointed by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation meets twice a year, in spring and autumn, to decide on the nominations in the respective round. Reviewing an application takes approximately six months. Nominations may be submitted online at any time.

We recommend that you contact the central administration of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft for a preliminary consultation (Mrs Denise Kaske, Department of International Business Development, email: denise.kaske@zv.fraunhofer.de , phone: +49 (0)89 1205 4715).

Visit the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's [website](#) for further information on the online nomination process and all necessary documents as well as access to the online nomination system. A confirmation or receipt will be issued after the application has been submitted. Nominators are responsible for ensuring that their documents are complete. Incomplete nominations might be excluded from the selection procedure.

General Regulations

There are no objections to award winners spending time on teaching during their research stay if they wish. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and the Humboldt Foundation consider it important that hosts mediate contacts between the award winner and other specialist colleagues in Germany upon the award winner's request.

The research award recognises the entire academic record as well as the personality of outstanding academics. Therefore it is assumed that award winners have complied with the [rules of good scientific practice](#) and the relevant laws valid at the respective research location in their previous academic work and will comply with them during a potential research stay in Germany. For further details please refer to section D of the [General Regulations and Information for Research Award Winners](#).

As of 05/2018