

# Humboldt Alumni Award 2026 for Innovative Networking Initiatives

## Programme Information

### 1. Programme

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation grants up to three Humboldt Alumni Awards to promote innovative networking initiatives. For this award, projects shall be recognised which help to create or extend sustainable academic and cultural relations, as well as subject- or topic-related researcher networks, between Germany and the Humboldt alumni's country of residence, thereby strengthening the alumni networks in the respective countries and regions. These projects build on the foundations of the stays in Germany undertaken by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's fellows and research award winners.

Descriptions of networking initiatives that have already received the Humboldt Alumni Award are available [here](#).

### 2. Eligibility and recipient of funding amount

Alumni of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation fellowship and award programmes ("Humboldtians") based abroad are eligible to apply for the award. Should an application be successful, the applicant becomes the recipient of the award funds and takes on responsibility for the planning, content, and the organisational and financial implementation of the proposed networking initiative. Implementation of the networking initiative should be completed within three years. Applications may also be submitted on behalf of Humboldt alumni associations or on behalf of several Humboldt alumni.

Humboldt alumni who have already received a Humboldt Alumni Award or special funding through this programme in the past are not eligible to apply.

### 3. Amount and use of sponsorship

The Humboldt Alumni Award is valued at up to EUR 30,000. This funding is to be used to implement the proposed networking initiative. When a networking initiative comes to an end, the funding recipient is required to submit a short report to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation outlining the measures implemented and including an overview of how the funds have been used for the respective items in the financing plan.

#### 4. Applications

The application package consists of:

- a fully completed application form, including a detailed action and financing plan for the implementation of the project (cf. *part 3 of the application form*);
- a detailed description of the proposed networking initiative based on the selection criteria stated in the programme information, including a preferably concrete list of the persons or groups participating in the networking initiative (e.g. Humboldtians, junior researchers), maximum five pages;
- a curriculum vitae (CV).

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation very much welcomes applicants' use of the "[Alumniportal Deutschland](#)" for any Internet-based aspects of the initiatives and encourages applicants to integrate the portal into the implementation of their initiatives. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is a partner organisation of this social network, which is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office. As well as enabling the creation of regional and specialist groups, the portal can also be used to organise online seminars (webinars) and announce events. If you wish to learn more about the possible uses of the Alumniportal, please get in touch with Ms. Daniela Becker ([daniela.becker@avh.de](mailto:daniela.becker@avh.de)). In the [community of the Alumniportal](#) there is also a restricted-access section "Humboldt Life", in which Humboldtians can exchange and network with each other.

Application documents must be submitted electronically to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation by **November 30, 2025**.

To access the application documents, click on the following [link](#).

We are happy to advise applicants personally. Please send queries to:  
[alumniaward@avh.de](mailto:alumniaward@avh.de)

#### 5. Selection

An internal Alexander von Humboldt Foundation selection committee will decide on the award recipients. Quotas will be imposed neither for particular countries or regions, nor for particular academic disciplines. The decisive criteria for selection will be that the proposed networking initiatives:

- involve innovative formats for bilateral or multilateral academic and cultural collaboration and subject or topic-related research cooperation; these should go beyond the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's established sponsorship programmes. These include:
  - formats for the development and maintenance of long-term academic and cultural links between Germany and the Humboldt alumni's country of residence;



- formats for the development and maintenance of virtual or personal exchange platforms on particular subjects and topics with the aim of promoting subject-related researcher networks worldwide, including academics from Germany;
  - formats to promote the networking of female academics abroad, and where applicable also with their specialist colleagues in Germany, e.g. mentoring and coaching formats, with the aim of stronger international academic and cultural integration of the persons funded; and
  - formats to promote dialogue between academia and society and enhance the visibility of the social relevance of scientific findings among the wider public.
- focus on new (groups of) people who have so far not been included in bilateral academic exchanges (i.e. between their home country and Germany, or in cross-border research collaboration of Humboldtians) and get them interested in bilateral academic or cultural cooperation, or include them in this type of cooperation;
  - promise to have a lasting effect on international academic or cultural collaboration (multiplication effect);
  - enhance understanding between individual countries or cultures and Germany.

Initiatives for which funding opportunities are already available within the scope of an existing Alexander von Humboldt Foundation programme cannot be supported as part of this competition. <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/alumni-programmes/alumni-abroad>

Successful applicants will be informed of the selection committee's decision in April 2026.

**Funding for the award is made possible by support from the German Federal Foreign Office. The Humboldt Alumni Awards are subject to the availability of budgetary funds.**