



Programme Information

Research Group Linkage Programme

Programme

This alumni programme allows sponsorship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of long-term research collaborations between academics in Germany and abroad.

The Research Group Linkage Programme is an alumni support tool designed to establish a sustainable basis for long-term international academic collaboration. Such cooperations should also integrate (doctoral and post-doctoral) junior researchers as potential candidates for a research fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

In a – generally bilateral – research group linkage, alumni from developing and emerging countries or certain other countries (see [list](#)) collaborate with academics from Germany.

In addition, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is currently conducting a pilot phase within which it may award funding to two **trilateral research group linkages** each year. These allow alumni from developing and emerging countries to collaborate with researchers from Germany and a further technologically advanced country (see [list](#)) in order to strengthen the integration of academics from developing and emerging countries into the international scientific community. In this document, differing regulations for trilateral research group linkages are shown in *italics*.

Funded activities, funding amount and funding period

The Research Group Linkage Programme provides funding for:

- **Cooperation-related auxiliary staff** (up to 20% of funding amount)
- **Reciprocal research visits** (travel and accommodation costs) of up to three months a year by the cooperation partners and their staff at the respective partner institutes; digital forms of collaboration are also possible and welcomed;
- **Joint specialist conferences**, workshops or similar events (up to 20% of the funding amount may be used to cover travel and accommodation expenses of participants from partner institutes, as well as costs of organising and holding the conference, in the countries of the cooperation partners only)
- **Scientific equipment** (up to 20,000 EUR, for partner institutes in eligible countries abroad only, see [list](#));
- **Publications and consumables**

The home institution of the cooperation partner in Germany may additionally receive an **administrative flat-rate** equivalent to 15% of the funding

amount. Funding amount and funding period:

- **Maximum funding amounting to 55,000 EUR, or 100,000 EUR for *trilateral research group linkages***, may be awarded. Please note the above-mentioned proportional restrictions regarding the use of these funds. *For trilateral research group linkages we moreover welcome financial contributions from the participating institutes in technologically advanced countries.*
- Period of funding may be **up to 3 years**

Application requirements

- One of the applicants is working at a research institute abroad in one of the countries according to the [current list](#) (except for institutes in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Western Europe and the USA) and is an alumnus of an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation fellowship or award programme (“Humboldtian”)
- **Trilateral research group linkages:**
One of the applicants is working at a research institute abroad in an emerging or developing country from the current [list of eligible countries](#); a further applicant is working at a research institute abroad in a technologically advanced country (see [list](#)). Both are alumni of an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation fellowship or award programme (“Humboldtians”)
- One of the applicants is working at a research institute in Germany

Application procedure

Applications may be submitted at any time using the application form on the [Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#) homepage.

When making an application, please follow the instructions to be found in the [Programme Information](#) and the [Application Information](#).

Applications and funding are subject to the [Rules of Good Scientific Practice](#) as well as the [Regulations on the Use of Funds](#).

The **lead applicant abroad** must attach the following documents to the application form:

- **Financial plan** split into years and indicating the intended use of funds (form)
- **Budget plan**, explaining the financial plan schedule
- **Cost estimates** for equipment items requested (if applicable), preferably in the form of quotations
- **Detailed research plan**
- **Tabular curriculum vitae and lists of publications** for the period of the last five years
- A **Declaration of the (Junior) Researcher** for each (junior) researcher who is to be involved in the research group linkage
- **Statements by the directors** of the institutes involved

The **lead applicant in Germany** and (where applicable) further co-applicants have to upload the following documents:

- The **Declaration of the Collaborative Partner regarding the Joint Application**
- **Curriculum vitae in tabular format and lists of publications** for the period of the last five years

Completed applications will undergo an independent review followed by submission to an internal Selection Committee for final decision. Applications are reviewed within a period of four to six months.

Assessment criteria include:

- Originality of the proposed research project
- Academic qualifications of applicants
- Extent to which the project will promote long-term reciprocal academic collaboration
- Potential of the proposed research project to effectively strengthen research in developing and emerging countries
- Discernible mobility from developing and emerging countries and to developing and emerging countries
- Planned integration of qualified junior researchers, as described in the application
- Appropriateness of requested funding amount as well as extent to which the activities to be funded are conducive to realisation of the proposed research project