



Return Fellowships for Research Fellows of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

1. The programme

After successfully completing the initial research stay in Germany sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation, Humboldt and Georg Forster Research Fellows may apply for a return fellowship to sponsor reintegration into a research institute abroad. This programme aims at supporting the creation and development of the research fellows' own working groups. Hence, they should be further established in their countries as future scientific cooperation partners and academic hosts for scientists and scholars from Germany. Furthermore, Georg Forster Research Fellows who have returned to developing and threshold countries should be enabled to contribute to knowledge and method transfers.

At present, return fellowships can only be awarded for a return to research institutions in Central and Eastern Europe, including all CIS-states, or to research institutions in developing or threshold countries.

2. Duration of sponsorship and expenses covered

- Financial support of €500 per month for a period of 12 months.
- €500 for scientific literature.
The total of €6,500 is paid in two instalments - one at the beginning and one after submission of a brief interim report after six months.

After completion of the sponsorship, the Humboldt Foundation requires a brief final report which should include a summary of the activities performed.

3. Eligibility for sponsorship

- Successfully completed research stay in Germany. Experienced researchers are only eligible for application if the duration of the last sponsorship period was at least 6 months.
- Return to a research institution either in Central and Eastern Europe, including all CIS states, or in a developing or threshold country, no later than 12 months after the initial sponsorship. The current list of potential target countries can be found at:
<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/return-fellowship.html>

4. Application procedure

Applications should be submitted no earlier than 3 months before the end of the research stay and no later than 6 months after completion of the research stay. The application should include the following documents:

- detailed research plan (containing information on the reintegration aspect) with timetable;
- reference from the academic host in Germany;
- a list of publications produced during the research stay sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation;
- confirmation by the institution abroad that a workplace will be provided.

On receipt of all necessary documents, decisions about applications will normally be made within 4 weeks. While being sponsored under this scheme, sponsorship of renewed research stays in Germany by the Humboldt Foundation is not possible.

For further information, please contact:

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