

## **Information regarding the special provisions that apply to the Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship Programme during the coronavirus pandemic**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the travel warnings issued by Germany's Federal Foreign Office and the restrictions many countries have placed on entry remain in effect. In addition, in many host countries authorities have enacted special guidelines and provisions that can include personal restrictions. In light of this, special provisions will apply until further notice in addition to the "Guidelines and Information for Feodor Lynen Research Fellows" which are part of the provisions governing your fellowship.

**In general:** If you can foresee that you cannot commence or complete your fellowship as planned – irrespective of whether this is due to the pandemic or some other reason – please inform your contact person at the Foundation!

Please refer to the following links for information on the specific details of the individual options available to you and clarify any questions in good time.

Guidelines and Information for Feodor Lynen Research Fellows:

[https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/fileadmin/Bewerben/Foerderung\\_waehrend\\_Aufenthalt/Forschungsstipendien\\_im\\_Ausland/lynen-fellowship\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/fileadmin/Bewerben/Foerderung_waehrend_Aufenthalt/Forschungsstipendien_im_Ausland/lynen-fellowship_guidelines.pdf)

FAQs regarding the special provisions mentioned here:

<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/entdecken/newsroom/nachrichten/coronavirus-pandemic-faq>.

### **Commencing your fellowship in Germany:**

If you are not otherwise employed full-time in Germany and you can conduct your research from home, you can apply in writing to commence your fellowship in Germany. For this, we require your host's agreement plus written confirmation that you can be appropriately incorporated into the joint research work done at your host institute. In such cases where an interim period in Germany is taken, the duration of your fellowship can if necessary and with the agreement of the host institution be extended by up to three months.

Please clarify if the host contribution can be paid even in the event that you commence your fellowship in Germany. If this is not possible, the Foundation can assume payment of the entire fellowship amount for the time being.

During a period of sponsorship in Germany, fellowship payments will not include the foreign allowance.

### **Postponing your fellowship:**

In the current special situation, we are generally allowing a timeframe of up to 12 months from the originally planned starting date during which it is possible to commence your fellowship.

In the event that the current pandemic situation necessitates postponing the commencement of your fellowship, please submit an application stating the reasons. The application does not need to follow a particular form. Please indicate in your application the new commencement date or a general time horizon and request your host to submit written approval for the new schedule.

Please clarify all vital details with your host institute, the visa authorities, etc., that are necessary for commencing your fellowship. In addition, please coordinate the host contribution for the new sponsorship period with the relevant offices.

Once the date on which you will enter your host country is definite (visa has been issued, flight has been booked), please inform the Foundation once more and ask your host to confirm the new dates for your research stay.

You are entitled to a first fellowship payment during the first month only when you entered your host country by the 15th of that month (or the next working day).

### **Interrupting your sponsorship in another country**

In the event that due to the pandemic, it is not possible to conduct your research project properly at your host location, you have the option of:

- continuing your fellowship in Germany on a temporary basis. The prerequisites and general conditions are the same as for commencing a fellowship in Germany (see above).  
You are entitled to a foreign allowance when you leave your host country after the 15th of the month or return to your host country by the 15th of the month (or the next working day).
- temporarily interrupting your fellowship and resuming it within the next 12 months.

### **Extending your fellowship**

Should the pandemic-related restrictions at your host institute make it impossible to complete your research project there, you may apply for an extension. Please begin by using the options listed in the Guidelines and Information for Feodor Lynen Research Fellows. Should you have already made use of the maximum sponsorship period, you can apply for an additional three months.

The [application form](#) for the different extension options is available on the Humboldt Foundation website.

### **Interrupting or terminating your fellowship early**

Should it not be possible to continue your research project in an adequate way either at your host institute or in Germany due to the pandemic, your fellowship must be interrupted or terminated ahead of schedule.

It is possible to interrupt your fellowship for up to 12 months when you have coordinated this with your host institute and the interruption does not necessitate any substantial changes to your research project.

In the event that your fellowship is terminated, a return fellowship is available to you and, in later years, the various options offered by alumni sponsorship (see A.4 and C of the Guidelines).

### **Reimbursement of cancellation costs**

Should you unexpectedly have to terminate your stay at your host institute due to new circumstances arising from the pandemic and this unavoidably leads to cancellation costs that cannot be reimbursed through another source, the Foundation can possibly reimburse part of the costs. Decisions are made on the basis of the individual case.