



Programme Information

Georg Forster Research Award

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is granting up to six Georg Forster Research Awards annually to internationally renowned academics from developing and transition countries in recognition of their entire academic record to date. Funding for the award is being provided by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Academics whose fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had a significant impact on their own discipline and beyond and who are expected to continue developing research-based solutions to the specific challenges facing transition and developing countries are eligible to be nominated for the award.

Academics from developing and transition countries of all disciplines may be nominated for a Georg Forster Research Award. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation particularly encourages the nomination of qualified female researchers.

The objective of the Georg Forster Research Award is to honour the recipients' life's work to date.

In addition, Award winners are invited to conduct a research project of their own choosing in Germany in close collaboration with a specialist colleague. The project duration of about six to twelve months may be divided into segments. The objective of inviting award winners to Germany is to contribute to the long-term promotion of outstanding scientific multipliers in transition and developing countries whose research will contribute to improving living conditions in their own countries.

The award amount totals EUR 60,000. In Germany, research awards are generally exempt from income tax under German tax law. In addition, further expenditures (such as travel or language courses as well as for scientific collaboration with partners in Germany) are covered in the context of the invitation to stay in Germany for research purposes. For more details please refer to the [General Regulations and Information for Award Winners](#).

Nomination Entitlement

An established academic employed by a university or research institution in Germany must take the initiative to nominate a candidate for the Georg Forster 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 in Germany. Close relatives (parents, brothers/sisters, children) and spouses/partners are not eligible for nomination. Self-nomination is not possible.

Nomination Prerequisites

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

Nominees must be nationals of a developing or transition country (excluding People's Republic of China and India; cf. detailed [list of countries](#)) Furthermore, at the time of nomination, they must have had their main residence and place of work in one of these countries for at least five years.

Researchers who have already received a research award for their academic achievements from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation are not eligible to be nominated. Nor should they have recently won any awards or fellowships for academic achievements in Germany. In case of doubt, please contact the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in advance.

Nominating academics must guarantee that they can provide the necessary infrastructure for the award winners' own research projects or lecture tours (e.g. access to libraries, materials, facilities). To support the collaboration, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation may grant additional funding of up to EUR 25,000, particularly for participating in scientific conferences, additional material resources, e.g., specialist literature and scientific equipment for the nominee's own institute, as well as for involving junior researchers. German hosts are also expected to be well prepared for the award winners' research stays and to act as personal mentors (e.g. finding accommodation).

Selection Procedure

Nominations may only be submitted online. An independent Selection Committee appointed by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will meet each summer to decide on the nominations which were submitted by **31 October of the preceding year**:

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 of 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

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 possible research stay in Germany. For further details please refer to section D of the [General Regulations and Information for Research Award Winners](#).

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