



Programme Information

Humboldt Research Professorship

International Award for Research in Germany

Through its Humboldt Research Professorships funded by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space as part of the Global Minds Initiative Germany, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation enables top-tier researchers of all disciplines from other countries to carry out their innovative and creative research projects in Germany and establish them at German universities. Award winners are expected to initiate long-term collaborations with specialist colleagues in Germany, set up and manage an international working group in Germany and develop additional promising and creative research formats to optimally suit their research interests and methodologies.

The award is aimed at outstanding researchers from abroad who can be expected to achieve further scientific breakthroughs in the future based on their highly successful, unconventional, innovative and audacious previous research.

Receiving institutions will be given flexible options for integrating and institutionally embedding the award winners, for example in the form of shared professorships or lab-to-lab professorships, providing significant latitude to recruit outstanding academics to work on internationally highly competitive research topics in Germany and structurally expand fields of research.

Humboldt Research Professors will be permitted to simultaneously continue conducting their own professorships or working groups in their countries of origin during the sponsorship. The funding regulations also permit them to relocate fully to Germany; long-term prospects for remaining in the country can be negotiated locally on an individual basis.

The award amount is usually EUR 1.5 million for theoretical researchers and EUR 3 million for academics in experimental disciplines, both over a period of five years. The receiving institution in Germany will be provided with an additional lump sum for administration amounting to 20% of the award amount. In the event that the award winner remains in Germany on a long-term basis, for example as a result of being appointed to a permanent professorship or comparable lifetime position, the receiving institution may under certain conditions apply for additional funding of up to EUR 500,000 and an extension of the sponsorship period by one year.

Nomination and selection procedure

Eligible for nomination are outstandingly qualified researchers of all disciplines who are working in other



countries and meet the requirements for appointment to a professorship in Germany. All universities in Germany may submit nominations. Nominations may moreover be made jointly with non-university research institutions in Germany where professorships with international research groups can be established.

Eligible for nomination are international research stars in two programme lines:

- Up to 18 years after obtaining their doctorate and
- Subsequent career levels.

Nominations must be submitted to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation via the rector or president of the respective university.

Main selection criteria include researchers' previous outstanding academic achievements and their potential to accomplish future pioneering breakthroughs with the proposed research. Plans for integrating and embedding nominees within the receiving institution and an appropriate scope of intended stays in Germany to implement the planned research project are also considered important criteria for success in the selection procedure.

The nominated researchers must have been predominantly living and working outside Germany for at least five years at the time of nomination. Furthermore, no employment relationship may exist in Germany at the time of selection or have been agreed for the future.

An independent selection committee at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will make a preliminary selection of potential candidates (shortlist) based on the complete documents of all received nominations. The shortlisted nominations will then undergo an external independent peer review, following which the selection committee makes its final selection.

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation aims to achieve a good balance between genders and a high level of diversity among its fellows in all areas. The Foundation therefore expressly welcomes the nomination of female scientists and members of underrepresented groups.

Award amount and lump sum for administration

The award amount is provided to fund research by the sponsored individual in Germany. This also applies to a potential supplementary sum paid in the event of a long-term stay in Germany. Up to EUR 10,000 a month may be withdrawn for the award winner's personal income to cover the cost of living during their research stay in Germany. If they relocate to Germany, up to EUR 120,000 a year may be used to fund their position, e.g., a professorship. The receiving institution may augment this sum with additional salary payments.

The lump sum for administration, which amounts to an additional 20% on top of the award amount



including any supplementary payment, may be used to cover any expenses the receiving institution incurs through the use of existing and/or specifically established material and staffing infrastructure. In the event of the award winner's relocation to Germany, the lump sum can moreover be used to fund e.g. "welcome packages" covering measures to integrate funding recipients into their new environment and the research institution, including assisting the award winner's partner in seeking appropriate employment.

Report on the use of funds and general regulations

Detailed information on the programme, accounting obligations and the legally binding rules of scientific ethics (item IX of the Regulations on the Use of Funds) can be found in the [Regulations on the Use of Funds](#) and the [Rules of Good Scientific Practice](#).

As of 12/2025