

Call for Applications Humboldt Residency Programme 2026 Frequently Asked Questions

Application Procedure

Researchers from which disciplines are invited to apply for the Residency Programme 2026?

There is no requirement or limit for disciplines either within or outside of academia for participation. We are aiming to convene as diverse a group as possible including as many disciplines and backgrounds as possible. Equally, it is not the goal to focus on these disciplines in the cohort's work. Rather the topic for the residency is as broad as its title suggests and it will be up to the participants to find the common grounds and questions that they as a group want to consider.

What are the selection criteria for the applications?

The selection committee will evaluate applications based on

- the suitability of their motivation to the programme's objectives,
- the relevance of their perspective or approach to the annual topic,
- the person's professional achievements,
- their suitability for science communication and transdisciplinary cooperation,
- the programme's potential impact on their future professional development.

Beyond evaluating individual applications, the selection committee will take into account the diversity in composition of the group under the criteria of disciplines, geography and gender.

The Smash link to my video expires in seven days. What should I do?

Please upload the video the same day you share your application with us. We will download it upon receiving the application and hence within the seven-day period of availability.

I don't know which category to apply in. What should I do?

Choose the one closest to you and send us an email explaining your consideration of options at residency@avh.de. We will not exclude your application from consideration if you chose the wrong category but will simply move you into the category we consider you to belong into. The categories merely serve as a tool for ensuring diversity in the group and will not play a role beyond the selection process.

I am a Humboldtian, but I don't hold an academic position. What should I do?

If you are a Humboldtian but are currently e. g. working in the civil society sphere, you should apply in that category. Please indicate your previous Humboldt affiliation, nevertheless.

I am not a Humboldtian and completed my PhD more than four years ago. Can I still apply?

No – with specific exceptions. The deadline of four years after the PhD is a strict one and we ask you not to apply to the programme, if you don't fulfill this criterium.

However, should you have taken time away from your career e.g. for maternal or paternal leave, we credit time towards the four years. Please reach out to us to consider your individual case.

What is the required English language level for participation in this programme?

Proficiency in English and the ability to communicate and discuss scientific subjects effectively in English are absolutely necessary. Given the participants' diverse backgrounds, all communication amongst the participants as well as with the accompanying staff of the Humboldt Foundation and our cooperation partners will be carried out in English.

Should the application include references or letters of recommendation?

For an application for the Humboldt Residency Programme, letters of recommendation are not required, and will therefore not be taken into consideration if submitted.

Funding specification

Are there any charges for participation in this programme?

Participants are not charged for this programme. The programme is fully funded, and participants receive a monthly allowance during the six-week residency period in Berlin/Brandenburg and a travel allowance for the trip to and from Germany.

How much does the accommodation in Berlin and Brandenburg cost?

The participants' accommodation at Schloss Wiepersdorf (2 weeks) and at an aparthotel in Berlin (4 weeks) is fully covered by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Cultural Foundation Schloss Wiepersdorf. You do not have to pay for the residency if you are selected for participation.

How much is the stipend/honorarium that participants can expect?

The stipends for researchers are in accordance with the usual AvH fellowship rates. Persons from civil society, journalism, arts or social entrepreneurship receive a honorarium which is competitive to other residencies and which to aim to ensure that participants do not have negative financial implications by participating.

Is there a travel grant?

Funding for participation in the Humboldt Residency Programme includes a travel allowance for the trip to and from Germany.

Is there a visa grant?

Participants of the program won't be charged with any cost when applying for a visa for the residency period as will be stipulated in the visa invitation letter the foundation provides.

Residency Programme Dates and Activities

Is it possible to attend only parts of the Residency?

It is essential for the programme that all participants are present for the entire six weeks of the residency. The programme will include daily in person meetings Monday – Thursday. The weekends are at the participants' own disposal.

Can I continue to work my regular job during the residency?

Yes – within a reduced scope. For the success of the programme it is crucial for participants to invest significant amounts of time into the programme for the six weeks of the residency. While we design the residency in a way that enables participants to keep up with some of their regular work, we advise participants to allow themselves as much time as possible for the residency as we see value in the creativity that arises from simply taking time and having space to think and reflect.

The work sessions and meetings with cooperation partners are usually scheduled for the first half of the day Monday - Thursday, so participants can keep up with their other responsibilities in the afternoons (and on Fridays). If you are able to completely dedicate your time to the residency, the afternoons are a highly valuable time to engage with other members of the cohort in developing your own projects and deepen your reflections on the topic.

Family Friendliness

Can I bring my family along?

Yes. It is important for us to make this programme as family friendly as possible. When required we will provide accommodation suitable to accommodate either accompanying partners, children, and/or other dependent family members in both Wiepersdorf and Berlin.

In scheduling dates of the residency, we do our best to schedule them in the mornings or early afternoons, however please be prepared to attend 3 – 4 evening events throughout the residency. Family members are welcome to join the group during meals and cultural activities that will be organized for the group. If necessary, we can assist in finding childcare for the time in Berlin. Unfortunately, the remote location of Wiepersdorf does not allow for external childcare to be provided.

Upon invitation to the programme we will ask all participants about their family needs and will be happy to enter a conversation to best accommodate those. Please note that we offer no short term flexibility in accommodating short term requests of e. g. accommodation or child care, as we have to facilitate these resources early on.

Will my family members receive a visa to travel to Germany?

We will provide all participants of the programme who need a visa with an invitation letter and can include accompanying family members in the invitation.

Is there a travel grant for dependent/accompanying family members?

Unfortunately, the Humboldt Residency Programme does not include a travel grant for dependent family members or a family allowance.