Call for Applications
Humboldt Residency Programme 2027
Frequently Asked Questions

Application Procedure

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

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 from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds. 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 suitability for the role they are applying for (Humboldtian, Early Career Researcher, Civil Society/Journalism/Arts)
- the person's professional achievement.

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 on the same day you share your application with us. We will download it upon receipt of 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 select the wrong category but will simply move you into the category we consider most suitable. 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. Nevertheless, please indicate your previous Humboldt affiliation.

➔ **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 completing your PhD is a strict criterion and we ask you not to apply to the programme, if you don't fulfil it.

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 vie email at residency@avh.de and we will consider your individual case.

➔ **I currently live in Germany. Can I still apply?**

If you are a researcher - whether Humboldtian or an Early Career Researcher - you unfortunately cannot apply. However, people from Civil Society, Journalism or the Arts can apply regardless of their place of residence. In determining eligibility, we consider your long-term place of residence rather than your citizenship.

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

Proficiency in English, as well as the ability and confidence to communicate and discuss scientific subjects effectively are absolutely necessary. If you are not able to contribute to the group's fast-paced discussions, you will not be able to make the most of the programme.

Given the participants' diverse backgrounds, all communication among participants, as well as with accompanying staff from 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 therefore will not be taken into account if submitted.

➔ **Will I receive an email confirmation when submitting my application?**

Yes, you will. However, you will only receive it once we have reviewed your documents. This might take a few days. In case you have not heard from us within a week of submitting the application, you may reach out to residency@avh.de.

Funding specifications

➔ **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 do the accommodations 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. Participants from Civil Society, Journalism or the Arts receive an honorarium which is competitive with those offered by other

residencies and is intended to ensure that participants do not suffer a financial disadvantage by participating in the programme.

➔ **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?**

Potential costs for visa applications are covered by the travel grant, which covers all expenses related to travel arrangements. However, participants of the program should not be charged 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. Participants are free to spend their weekends as they wish.

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

Yes – within a reduced scope. For the success of the programme, it is crucial for participants to invest a significant amount of time into the programme during the six weeks of the residency. While we have designed the residency in a way that allows participants to keep up with some of their regular work, we advise participants to dedicate as much time as possible to the residency. 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 between 9am and 3pm, Monday to Thursday, allowing participants to keep up with other responsibilities in the afternoons (and on Fridays). If you are able to dedicate your time fully 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 to us to make this programme as family friendly as possible. Where needed, we will provide suitable accommodation for accompanying partners, children, and/or other dependent family members both in Wiepersdorf and Berlin.

Upon invitation to the programme, we ask all participants about their family needs and – if you plan to travel with family members – ask you to confirm that your participation in the programme depends on making arrangements for family members. We will then make individual arrangements based on your needs.

Nevertheless, we recommend that family members not to join you during the first two weeks of the residency in Wiepersdorf, due to its very remote location. However, if necessary, we can accommodate family members there too.

In scheduling dates of the residency, we do our best to set activities in the mornings or early afternoons. However, please be prepared to attend three to four evening events throughout the residency. Family members are welcome to join the group for meals and cultural activities organized for the cohort. 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.

Please note that we cannot offer short-term requests for additional accommodation or childcare, as we have to facilitate these resources early on.

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

We will provide all programme participants who require 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.