

Programme Information

Philipp Franz von Siebold Award

The Philipp Franz von Siebold Award, established in 1979, is conferred annually by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to an internationally renowned Japanese researcher in recognition of his or her entire academic record to date.

Nominations for the award must identify academics who have made outstanding contributions to a better mutual understanding of culture and society in Germany and Japan, whose fundamental discoveries, new theories or insights have had a lasting impact on their own discipline and beyond, and who are expected to continue to significantly shape German-Japanese academic, cultural and social cooperation in the future.

Researchers of all disciplines working in Japan may be nominated for the Philipp Franz von Siebold Award. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation particularly encourages the nomination of qualified female candidates.

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 six to twelve months may be divided into several segments.

The award totals EUR 80,000. In Germany, research awards are generally exempt from income tax under German tax law. Supplementary expenditures associated with an invitation to stay in Germany to conduct research (e.g. travel or language courses) are also covered. For more details please refer to the [General Regulations and Information for Research Awards of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#).

Eligibility to Nominate

Candidates for the Philipp Franz von Siebold Award may be nominated by the presidents of all universities and national research organisations (Kenkyu Kaihatsu Houjin) in Japan, previous Siebold award winners, the directors of the Goethe-Institutes in Japan, the director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies, the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kobe/Osaka and the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Japan. Alumni of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation may submit nominations via the executive committee of a Japanese university or the management of a research institute. Self-nominations cannot be accepted.

Eligibility of Nominees

Nominated Japanese researchers should be no more than 50 years of age and should in addition to excellent academic qualifications have in particular made outstanding contributions to a better mutual understanding of culture and society in Germany and Japan.

The nominee's outstanding academic qualifications must be internationally recognised and his or her successes in research documented, for instance by positively received academic publications or previous awards.

The Philipp Franz von Siebold Award can only be granted once to any given academic. Researchers who have already received a research award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for their academic achievements are not eligible for nomination.

Furthermore, nominees should not have won any German awards or fellowships recognizing their academic achievements recently. At the time of nomination, nominees must have been living and working predominantly in Japan for at least five years. Moreover, nominees must not have held or accepted permanent employment in Germany at the time of selection. In cases of doubt, please contact the DAAD office in Tokyo before initiating a nomination.

It is expected that the invitation to conduct research in Germany if the award is granted will be extended by researchers whose institutions are able to provide the necessary infrastructure for the award winners' research projects or lecture tours (e.g. access to libraries, materials, facilities). German hosts are also expected to prepare the award winners' research stays carefully and to act as their personal mentors (e.g. offering help in finding accommodation).

Selection Procedure

An independent Selection Committee decides on the award winner annually. The Committee is comprised of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Japan, three presidents of Japanese universities (or persons of comparable status), a Siebold award winner, three further alumni of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the director of the DAAD office in Tokyo.

The Committee's decision is based on the assessment of the candidates' academic qualifications and their contributions to mutual understanding between the two cultures and societies.

The DAAD office in Tokyo makes the call for nominees, administers the selection process and provides information on required documents and timelines for nominations.

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General Regulations

The research award recognises the entire academic record as well as the personality of outstanding academics. It is therefore assumed that in their previous academic work award winners have complied with the rules of good scientific practice and corresponding laws applicable in their respective research locations, and that they will continue to comply with these also during a possible research stay in Germany. For further details please refer to the [General Regulations and Information for Research Awards of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#).

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