



Philipp Schwartz Initiative of the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung Special regulations related to CoVid-19

(Last updated: May 2021)

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation makes every effort to ensure that fellows are not left alone in the current extraordinary situation. To this end, we have drawn up a series of special regulations for Philipp Schwartz fellowship holders and their host institutions that are summarized below. These measures are reviewed on an ongoing basis and further adjusted if necessary.

Please note that most of the regulations require an application by the project leader at the host institution, which remains the first point of contact for Philipp Schwartz fellows. Please also note that any questions regarding residence rights arising in this context must be addressed by the host institutions with the relevant authorities.

1. At present, **any documents** such as grant acceptance forms must be submitted electronically (as a signed PDF scan) via schwartz-initiative@avh.de. Subsequently the original documents need also be sent by post. Only this double submission ensures timely processing and subsequent documentation.
2. In the event of the closure of host institutions or other restrictions imposed by official decisions, the Humboldt Foundation assumes that fellows can pursue their research activities working from home, so that the **entitlement to fellowship payments** remains in place. Notification to or coordination with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is not required for this. Physical presence in Germany remains a prerequisite for fellowship payments.
3. Fellows who are forced to remain in Germany beyond the end of their fellowship through no fault of their own, but due to travel restrictions or other decisions imposed by German or foreign authorities, can receive a **fully financed extension of their fellowship** for the duration of the reason asserted plus an additional month of departure. The project leader at the host institution must submit an informal application to the Humboldt Foundation, explaining the specific reasons, as well as an appropriately adjusted financing plan and payment plan.
4. Fellows whose research projects are delayed through no fault of their own, but due to the pandemic and whose funding ends in 2021 can receive a **fully funded extension** of their fellowship **for up to six months**. Currently, extensions can only be granted if this does not extend the funding beyond 31 December 2021. Extensions that have already been granted by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation or for which an application has been submitted by 30 April 2021 remain unaffected by the time limit. Spending of the requested funds is mandatory in 2021.

The project leader at the host institution must apply to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for an extension. The following documents must be enclosed with the informal application:

- a brief report on the results of the work to date,
 - an explanation of the reasons for the delay,
 - a brief confidential statement by the academic mentor affirming the current research post confirmation and mentoring agreement,
 - an updated financing plan and payment plan.
5. For fellows who are unable to start their scholarship through no fault of their own, but due to pandemic-related decisions imposed by German or foreign authorities (such as travel bans), the project leader at the host institution may request an **extraordinary postponement of the start of the fellowship** of a maximum of 6 months. Pandemic-related postponements can be granted even if the regular maximum postponement period of 12 months was reached. The Humboldt Foundation may grant such postponements in three-month steps.
 6. If fellows incur **unavoidable cancellation fees** as a result of pandemic-related postponements of their stay and through no fault of their own, these fees may be covered in part after the fellowship has started, subject to review in individual cases. Such a case-by-case review by the Humboldt Foundation is carried out at request of the project leader of the host institution. The institution is responsible for determining the neediness of the fellow, for transmitting receipt copies to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, for reviewing and keeping the receipts for cancellation costs and for documenting efforts to avoid costs or have them reimbursed in some other way. It is essential that these costs are marked with the words „**Ausfallkosten CoVid-19**“ in the application and in the reporting documents. The start of the fellowship is a prerequisite for reimbursement.
 7. An extended submission deadline of 30 April 2021 has been granted for **reporting documents** that were due before 1 March 2021.

We hope that these measures will at least cushion the impact of corona-related hardships for Philipp Schwartz fellows and host institutions. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if there are any constellations that are not covered by the measures presented. Since we have to strictly prioritize inquiries presently, we kindly ask you to refrain from enquiring about submitted applications, except in urgent cases.

Contact the Philipp Schwartz Initiative:

Katja Machacsek, Katrin Schlemme, Svetlana Strobel, Karin Ziegner
Programme Officers Philipp Schwartz Initiative
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
Phone: +49 228 833-182 / -166 / -409 / -162
E-mail: schwartz-initiative@avh.de