



HUMBOLDT RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIPS – INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR RESEARCH IN GERMANY

Dr. Frederik von Heymann
Programm-Management Selection
13.01.2026
Humboldt Discoveries



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG

CONTENTS

- What we do
- Global Minds Initiative Germany:
Humboldt Foundation sponsorship
opportunities
- Humboldt Research Professorships:
Framework, objectives, procedure
- Q&A

WHAT WE DO

- Academic collaborations between excellent international and German researchers
- Sponsorship throughout lifetime
- A network of 30,000 alumni worldwide
- International understanding, diplomacy, scientific progress and development
- Internationalisation of Germany as a research location



WHAT WE DO

- No quotas, neither for individual countries nor for specific academic disciplines
- The only thing that counts is the applicant's academic record.
- We support people, not projects.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- equal opportunities is an important issue for the Foundation
- fellowship extension or interruption, allowances to support childcare
- targeted counselling and provision of information





OUR NETWORK

**IDEAS CAN ONLY BEAR FRUIT
IF THEY TAKE ROOT IN MANY
MINDS.**

Alexander von Humboldt

- World-spanning Humboldt Network transcending the boundaries of disciplines and countries
- Scientific solutions to the challenges of our times
- A network of trust and understanding



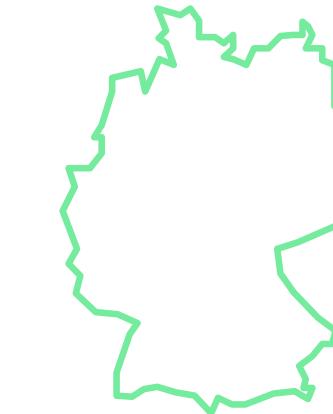
OUR NETWORK



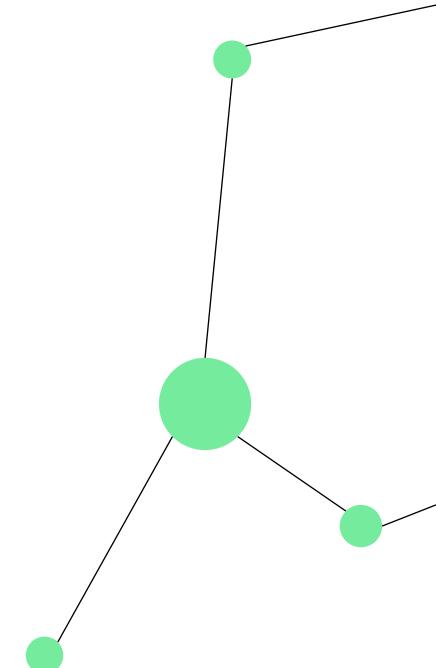
950
Awards and
fellowships every year

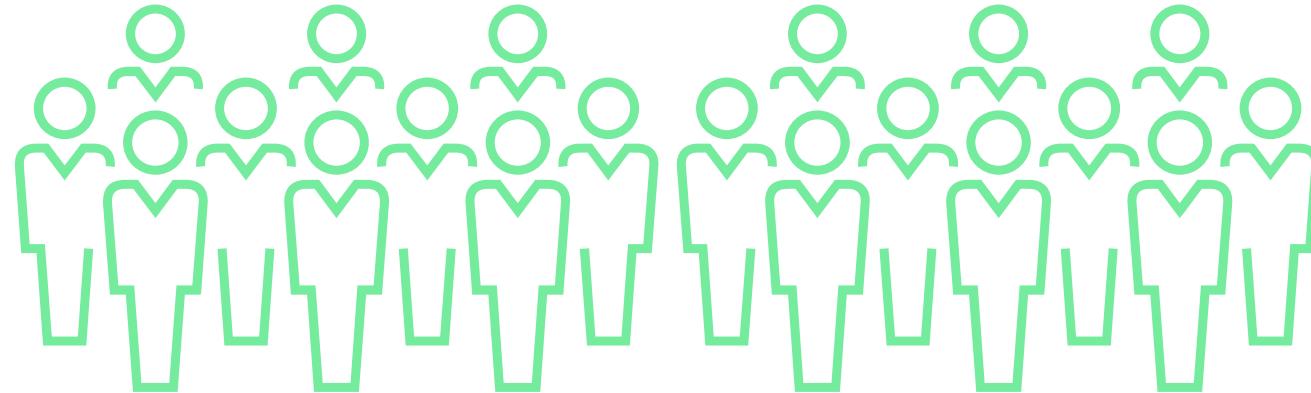
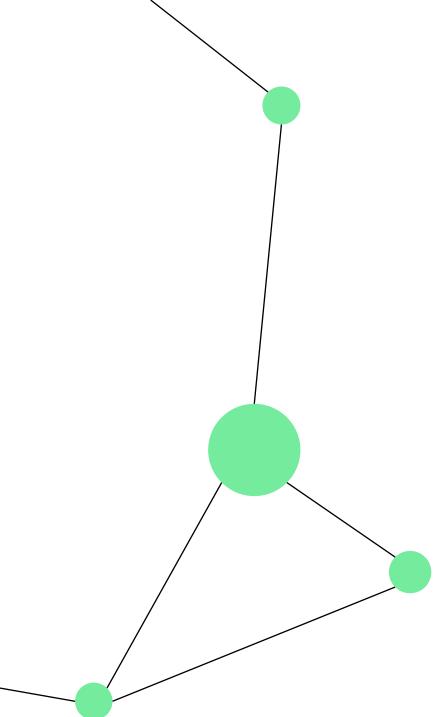


Alumni in more than
140
countries



2300
Research stays in
Germany every year





30000

Humboldtians across the world

63

Nobel laureates

40

Conferences and meetings across the
world every year

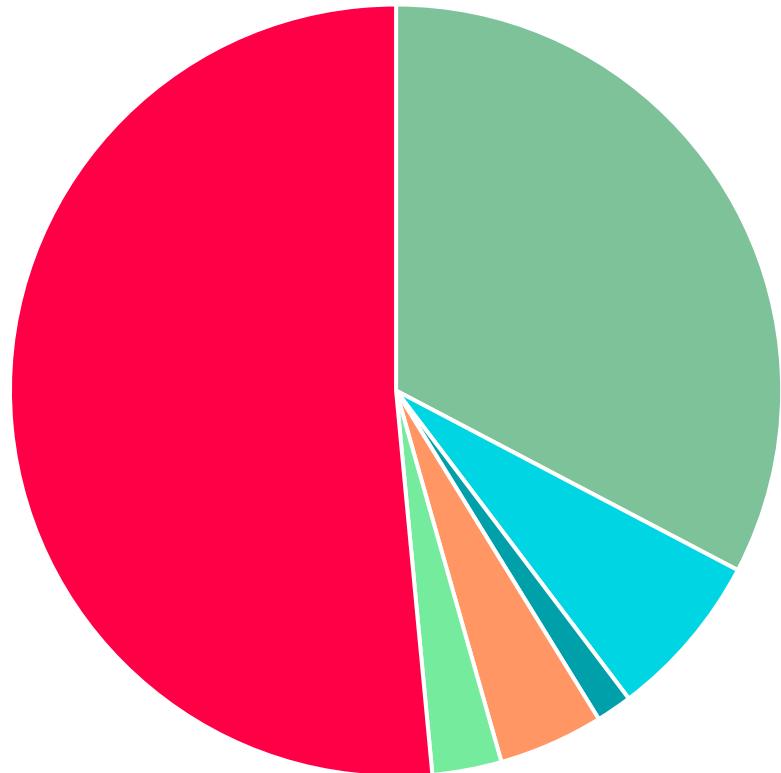
109

Humboldt alumni associations
worldwide



HUMBOLDT FOUNDATION FINANCING

Budget 2025*: approx. 156.7 mill. euros, 98 percent financed through federal funds



AA	33,4 %
BMZ	7,4 %
AA (IKI)	1,6 %
EU	3,0 %
Other	1,5 %
BMFTR	53,1%

AA: Federal Foreign Office
BMFTR: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space
BMZ: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
IKI: Internationale Klimaschutzinitiative (International Climate Initiative)
EU: European Union

* according to the 2025 budget





DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG

„1.000-Köpfe-Plus“-Programm / Global Minds Initiative Germany



Bundesministerium
für Forschung, Technologie
und Raumfahrt

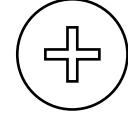
„1.000-Köpfe-Plus“-Programm / Global Minds Initiative Germany



The Global Minds Initiative Germany offers international researchers career prospects in the German science system.



The BMFTR initiative sees itself as offering a safe haven for freedom of research.



The initiative enables AvH and DFG to offer additional scholarships within the framework of existing funding programs and to invite top researchers to Germany.



The internationally renowned support programs offered by both organizations enable a quick start to a career in Germany



The DFG and AvH programs address different career stages

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

The offers are supplemented by accompanying, structure-promoting measures by the DAAD for students and doctoral candidates.



Funding Programmes (AvH) in „1.000-Köpfe-Plus“-Programm / Global Minds Initiative Germany

	Humboldt Research Fellowships	Humboldt- / Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel- Research Awards Internationally recognised researcher	Alexander von Humboldt Professorship World-leading top researcher	Humboldt Research Professorship International top-tier researchers
Purpose	Research fellowship for exceptionally qualified researchers. Extended research stay in cooperation with hosts.	Research award for internationally leading scientists from abroad in all disciplines for their overall achievements to date.	Research award for world-leading top researchers working abroad, to finance a professorship in Germany, long-term and forward-looking research	Research award for top researchers from abroad to base their research in Germany, innovative research formats; relocation to Germany possible, but not a prerequisite
Prerequisites	Application Postdocs up to 4 years / Experienced researchers up to 12 years after completing their doctorate	Nomination Nomination by a scientist in Germany	Nomination Nomination by a university in Germany; co-nominations with a non-university research institution are possible	Nomination Nomination by a university in Germany; co-nominations with a non-university research institution are possible
Funding and duration	Postdocs € 3,000* / 6-24 months Experienced researcher € 3,600* / 6-18 months * Monthly rate, plus benefits	€ 80,000 / € 60,000 award money plus an invitation for a research stay in Germany for up to 12 months	3,5 - 5 Mio € for a period of 5 years	1,5 - 3 Mio € for a period of 5 years

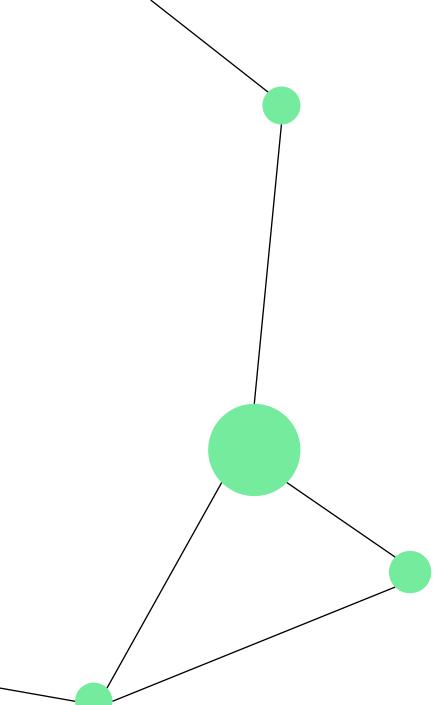




Humboldt Research Professorships

International Award for Research in Germany





HUMBOLDT RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIPS

Target group:

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**.

Features:

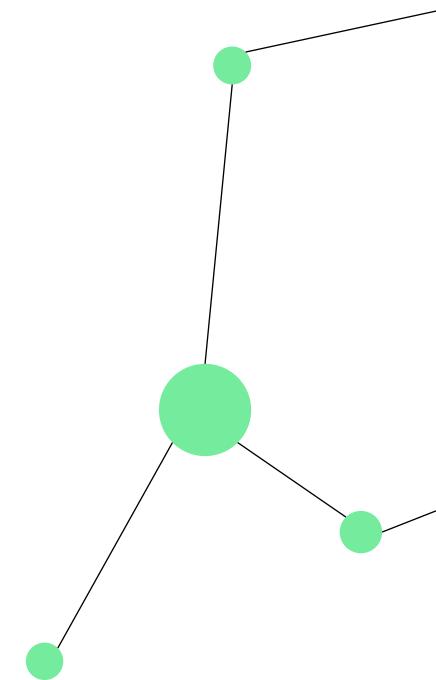
- Award winners can **continue to hold their own professorship or work group in their country of origin** during the funding period.
- Relocation to Germany is **possible** for the duration of the funding period.
- Appointment is **possible at any point** during (or after) the funding period.
- **1.5 million euros** for theoretical research and **3 million euros** for experimental research;
- Additional 20% **administrative markup** for the host institution.
- Funding period: 5 years.



REQUIREMENTS

- Appointable to a professorship in Germany
- Predominantly living and working outside Germany for at least five years
- Nomination submitted via the rector or president of the respective university

- Two programme lines:
 - ✓ Up to 18 years after obtaining the doctorate (considering possible career breaks)
 - ✓ More than 18 years after obtaining the doctorate

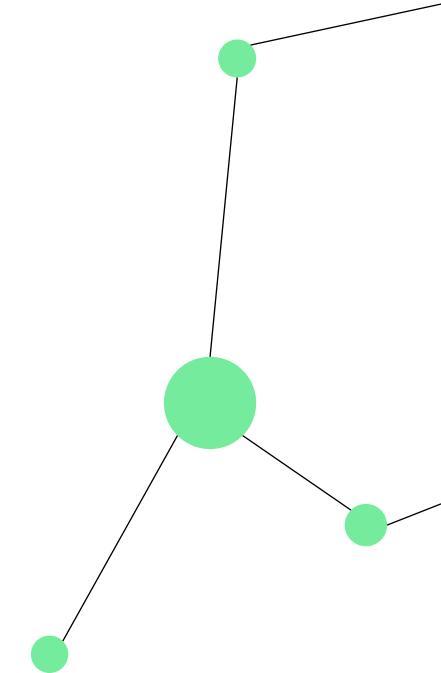


SECURITY-RELEVANT RESEARCH

Should the nomination concern security-relevant research, then...

- Inform the compliance office of your institution about the planned cooperation
- If necessary, contact the Commission for Ethics in Security-Relevant Research
- Submit an opportunity risk assessment with the nomination, taking into account the planned cooperation and the nominee's past work

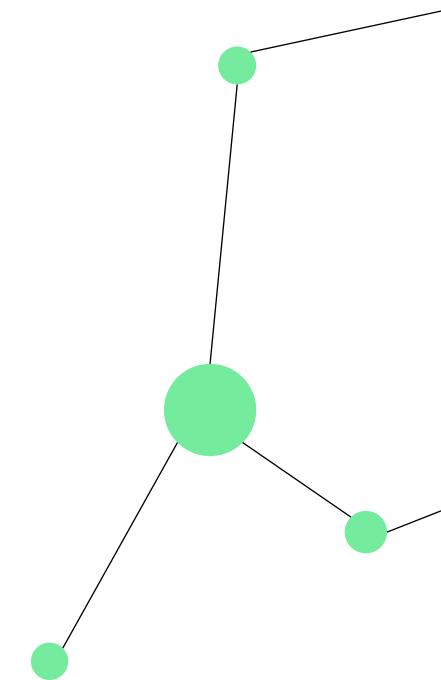
- For more information, please refer to our website on [security-relevant research in international research collaborations](#)
- If you have questions, please contact us at info@avh.de



NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Necessary Documents:

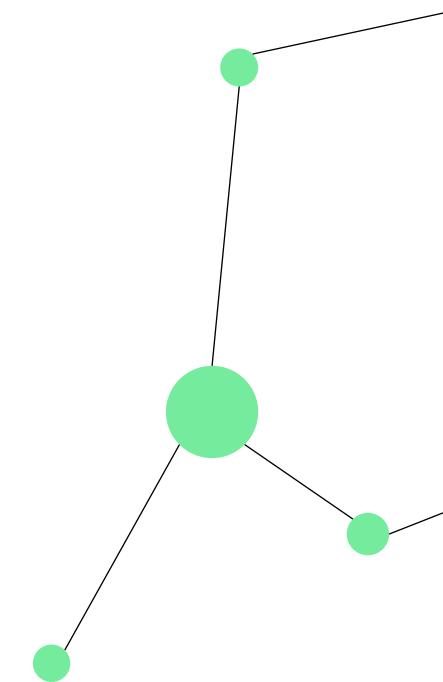
- CV of the nominee
- Publication-list of the last 10 years
- List of 5 key-publications
- Nomination letter from university management (1-2 pages)
- Financial plan
- Project proposal (up to 15 pages)
- Statement from the cooperation partner (2-5 pages)
- Signed declarations of the hosting institutions and the nominee



NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Necessary Documents:

- CV of the nominee
- Publication-list of the last 10 years
- List of 5 key-publications
- Nomination letter from university management (1-2 pages)
- **Financial plan**
- **Project proposal (up to 15 pages)**
- **Statement from the cooperation partner (2-5 pages)**
- Signed declarations of the hosting institutions and the nominee



FINANCIAL PLAN

Das Preisgeld beträgt in der Regel 1,5 Millionen Euro für theoretisch arbeitende bzw. 3 Millionen für experimentell arbeitende Forschende. Die aufnehmende Institution in Deutschland erhält eine Verwaltungspauschale in Höhe eines Aufschlags von 20% auf das Preisgeld.

As a rule, the award funds amount to 1.5 million euros for researchers working in theoretical fields and 3 million euros for researchers working in experimental fields. The receiving institution in Germany receives a lump sum amounting to 20% as a markup to the award funds.

	Personalmittel (siehe Hinweise unten) Human resources (see note below)	Sachmittel (z.B. wissenschaftliche Geräte, Reisekosten und Verbrauchsmaterial / Sonstiges) Material resources (e.g. scientific equipment, travel and consumables / other)	Verwaltungspauschale für die aufnehmende Institution Administrative markup for the receiving institution	Gesamtkosten Total
Jahr 1 Year 1			0	0
Jahr 2 Year 2			0	0
Jahr 3 Year 3			0	0
Jahr 4 Year 4			0	0
Jahr 5 Year 5			0	0
Gesamt Total		0	0	0

Bitte beachten: Aus dem Preisgeld kann zur Deckung des Lebensunterhaltes während der Forschungsaufenthalte in Deutschland pro Monat bis zu 10.000 EUR (pro Tag 1/30 des monatlichen Betrages) für das persönliche Einkommen der*des Nominierten entnommen werden.

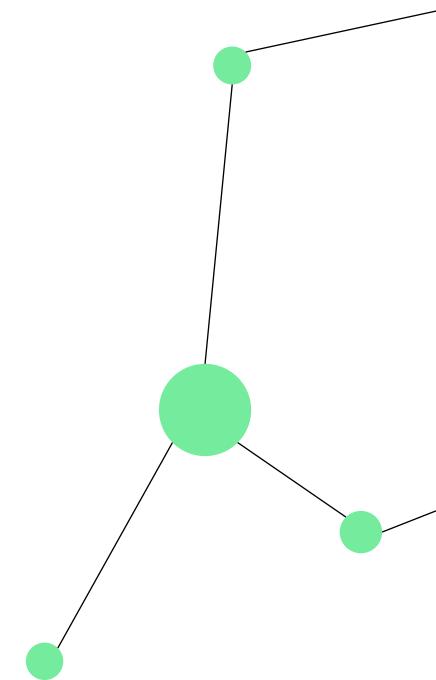
Please note: Up to 10,000 euros per month or 1/30 of the monthly amount per day may be used to cover the award winner's living expenses during research stays in Germany.



PROJECT PROPOSAL

The proposal should be around 10 to 15 pages long and include information on:

- Project concept and background
- Significance of proposed research, methodology, and work plan
- Collaborations with host institute(s)
- Supervision of the research group and time spent in Germany
- References
- any other information deemed important



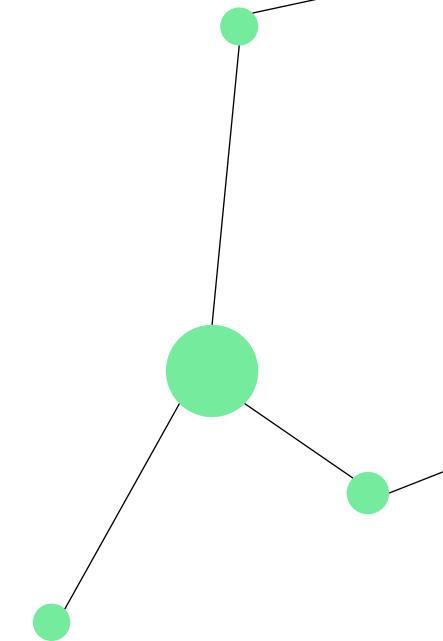
STATEMENT OF THE COOPERATION PARTNER

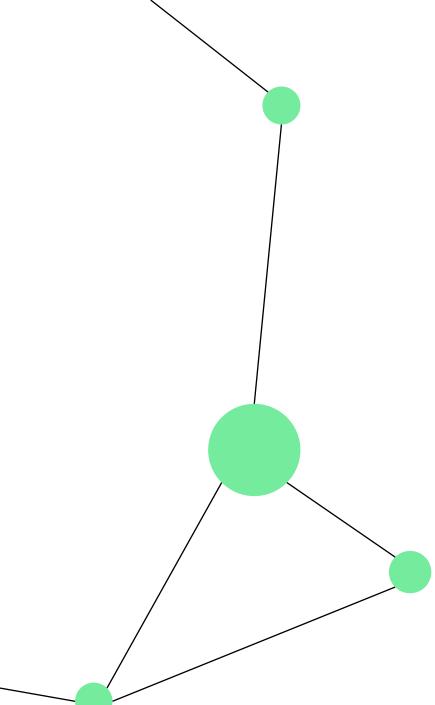
Nominee

- The nominee's **international reputation** and their personality in general, in comparison to other researchers at a similar career stage
- **Recognised theories, insights or discoveries** that they have achieved as well as their impact on the immediate and broader field of specialization
- Assessment of their **publication activity**, especially in the past five years

Cooperation

- Research interests you share with the nominee
- Relevance of the provided key publications to the proposed project
- Synergies of the planned research project with the research at your institute
- Integration of the nominee into your institution and involvement of other colleagues in the cooperation
- Existing resources at your institution (with relevance to the cooperation)
- Expected interaction with the nominee's group at their home institution
- Significance and level of innovation of the proposed research
- Potential for long-term cooperation beyond the duration of funding

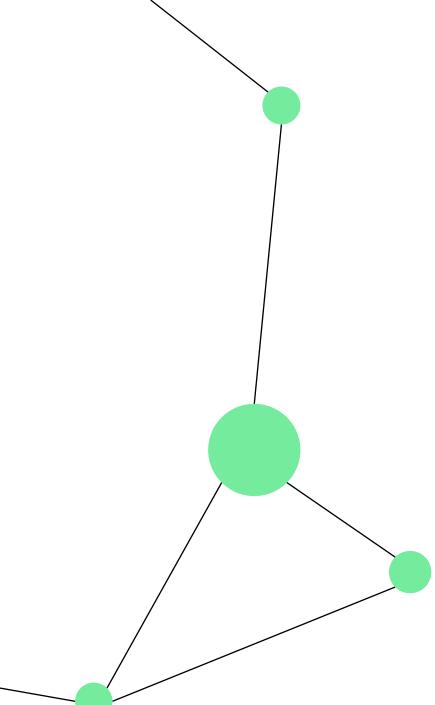




SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Convincing Nominee** with respect to previous research: recognized theories, publication record.
Relative to career stage and taking into account the subject culture.
- **Convincing Cooperation:** Common topics; existing resources at host institution; significance and level of innovation of the proposed research.
- **Convincing Integration:** Appropriate visits in Germany planned; interaction with home institution (if applicable); involvement of other individuals at the host institution; potential for collaboration beyond the funding period.
- **Two programme lines** for better comparability, but each application is assessed individually and same selection criteria





SELECTION PROCEDURE

- Submit nominations
- Preliminary selection of potential candidates is made by independent selection committee (spring)
- Notifications of nominating institutions concerning the nomination's status
- External independent peer review of the shortlisted nominations
- Final selection decision made by independent selection committee (autumn)

- First call: Submission deadline March 15, Finalizing shortlist end of May
- Second call opens summer 2026, submission deadline will be November 2026 (expectedly), final decisions in autumn 2027.





Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG

THANK YOU

Do you have any questions?

- Frederik von Heymann
- Programme-Management Selection
- HRP-Auswahl@avh.de
- www.Humboldt-Foundation.de