



HUMBOLDT RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIPS – INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR RESEARCH IN GERMANY

Dr. Frederik von Heymann
Programme-Management Selection
July 23, 2026
Humboldt Discoveries



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG

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- Global Minds Initiative Germany:
Humboldt Foundation sponsorship
opportunities
- Humboldt Research Professorships:
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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



OUR NETWORK



950

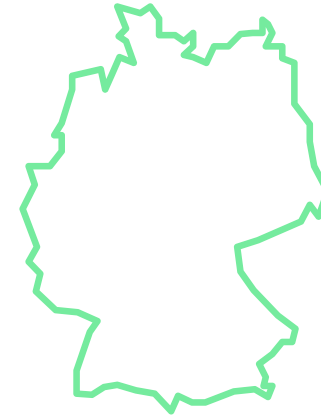
Awards and
fellowships every year



Alumni in more than

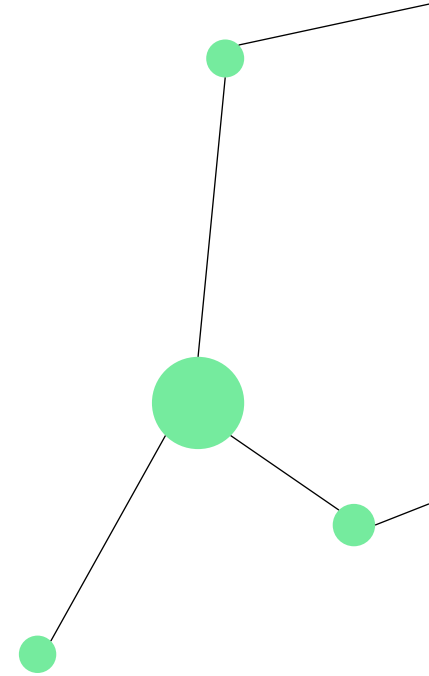
140

countries



2300

Research stays in
Germany every year



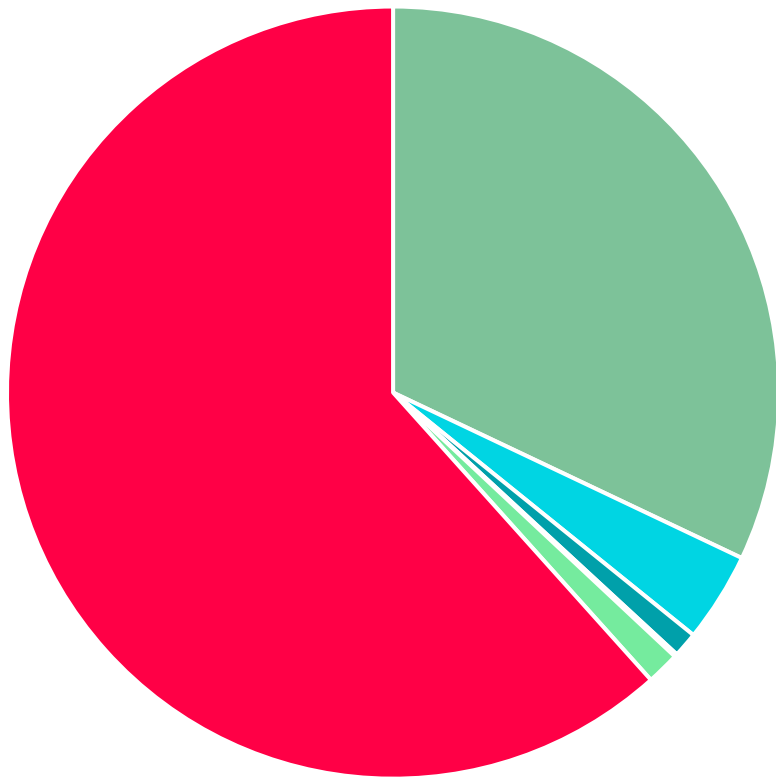
WHAT WE DO

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



HUMBOLDT FOUNDATION FINANCING

Budget 2026*: approx. 165,0 mill. euros, 98 percent financed through federal funds



AA	32,0 %
BMZ	3,8 %
AA (IKI)	1,1 %
EU	0,1 %
Other	1,4 %
BMFTR	61,6%

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 first version of the 2026 economic plan dated 19 November 2025





Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG

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

GLOBAL MINDS
INITIATIVE GERMANY



Bundesministerium
für Forschung, Technologie
und Raumfahrt

GLOBAL MINDS INITIATIVE GERMANY



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



The Initiative enables the AvH and the DFG to **offer additional fellowships and invite top researchers to Germany** in the context of existing funding programmes.



We support people, not projects. The differentiated programmes aim at **supporting individuals in all phases of their scientific careers.**



The internationally renowned funding programmes of both organizations enable a **speedy start** to a career in Germany.



No quotas, neither for individual countries nor for specific academic disciplines. The only criterion is the applicant’s academic record.



FUNDING PROGRAMMES (AVH) IN GLOBAL MINDS INITIATIVE GERMANY

	Humboldt Research Fellowship	Humboldt- / Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel-Research Award Internationally recognised researcher	Humboldt Research Professorship International top-tier researchers	Alexander von Humboldt Professorship World-leading top researcher
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 top researchers from abroad to base their research in Germany, innovative research formats; relocation to Germany possible, but not a prerequisite.	Research award for world-leading top researchers working abroad, to finance a professorship in Germany, long-term and forward-looking research.
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.	€ 1.5 - 3 Million for a period of 5 years.	Up to € 10 Million for a period of 7 years.



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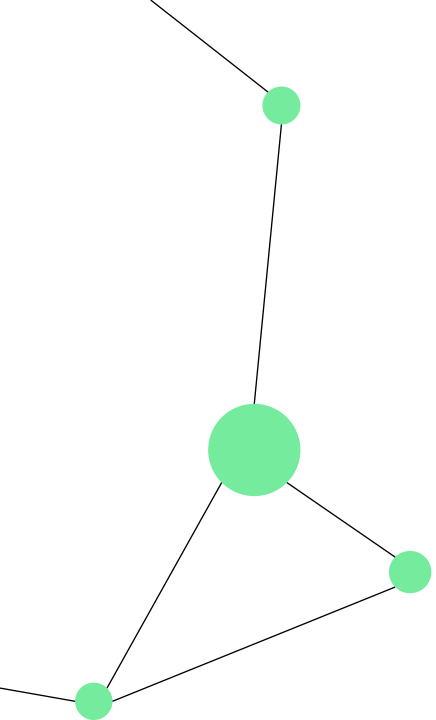




Humboldt Research Professorships

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.**

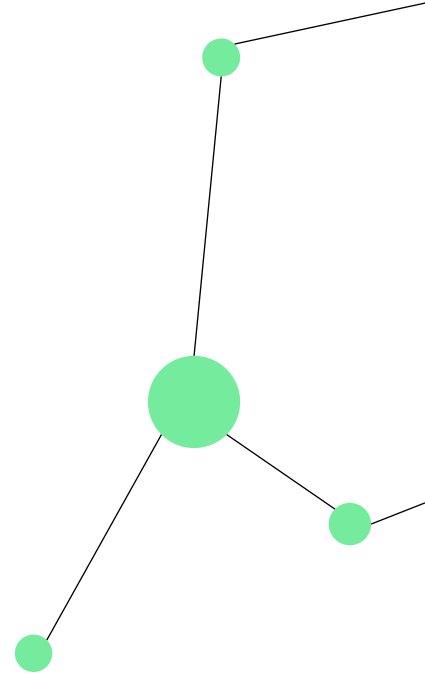
Features:

- 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

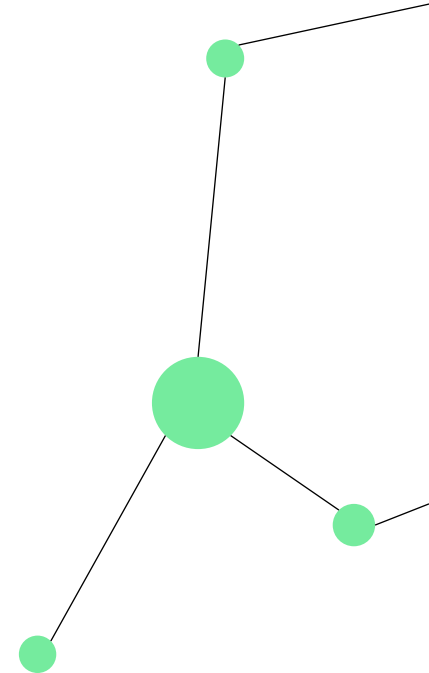
- Appointable to a professorship in Germany
 - Predominantly living and working outside Germany for at least five years
 - Nomination submitted via the university leadership
-
- Open to all academic ages; Two programme lines:
 - ✓ Up to 18 years after obtaining the doctorate (considering possible career breaks)
 - ✓ More than 18 years after obtaining the doctorate



SECURITY-RELEVANT RESEARCH

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

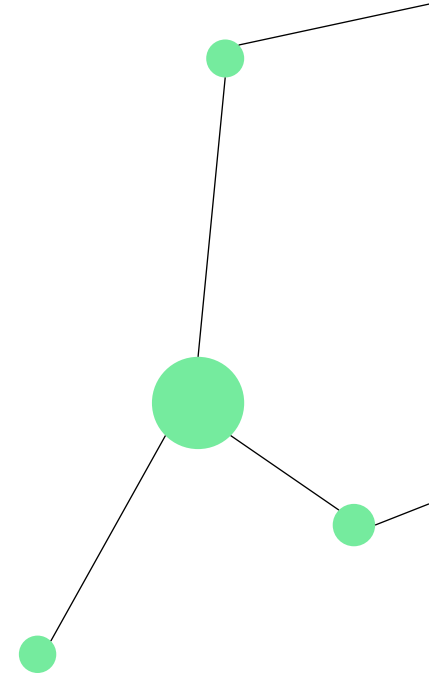
- Inform the compliance office of the host institution about the planned cooperation
- If necessary, contact the Commission for Ethics in Security-Relevant Research
- Submit an opportunity risk assessment with the nomination, taking into account the planned cooperation and the nominee's past work
- For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

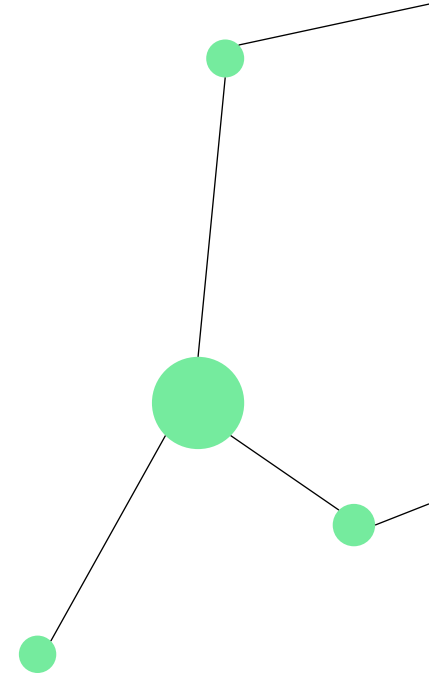
- CV of the nominee (up to 10 pages)
- Publication-list of the last 10 years
- List of 5 key-publications
- Nomination letter from university management (1-2 pages)
- Financial plan
- Project proposal (up to 15 pages)
- Statement from the cooperation partner (2-5 pages)
- Signed declarations of the hosting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



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FINANCIAL PLAN

	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)	Verwaltungs- pauschale für die aufnehmende Institution Administrative markup for the receiving institution	Gesamtkosten Total
Jahr 1 Year 1	1.000,00	5,13	201,03	1.206,16
Jahr 2 Year 2			0,00	0,00
Jahr 3 Year 3			0,00	0,00
Jahr 4 Year 4			0,00	0,00
Jahr 5 Year 5			0,00	0,00
Gesamt Total	1.000,00	5,13	201,03	1.206,16

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.

Berechnetes Preisgeld insgesamt:

Award money, calculated total:

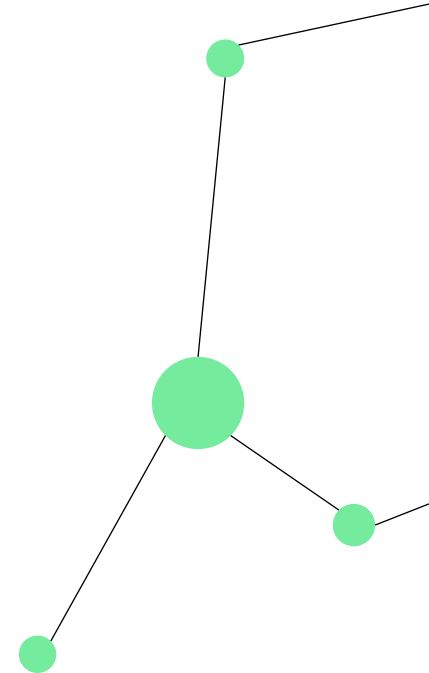
1.005 €



PROJECT PROPOSAL

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

- Project concept and background
- Significance of proposed research (scientific and/or otherwise), methodology, and work plan
- Collaborations with host institute(s); if applicable: structure of the research group
- Supervision of the research group and time spent in Germany
- Literature references
- any other information deemed important



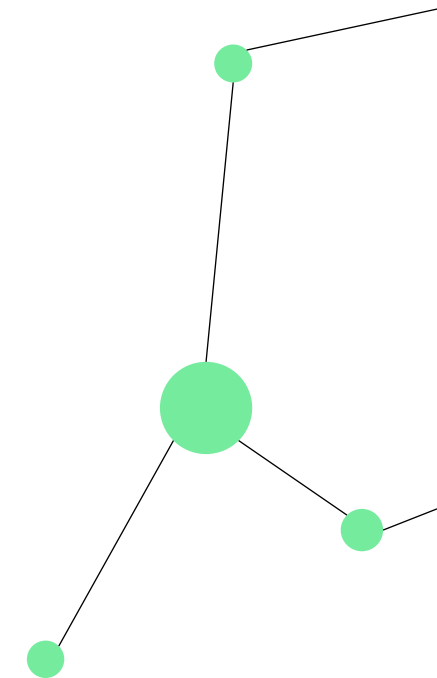
STATEMENT OF THE COOPERATION PARTNER

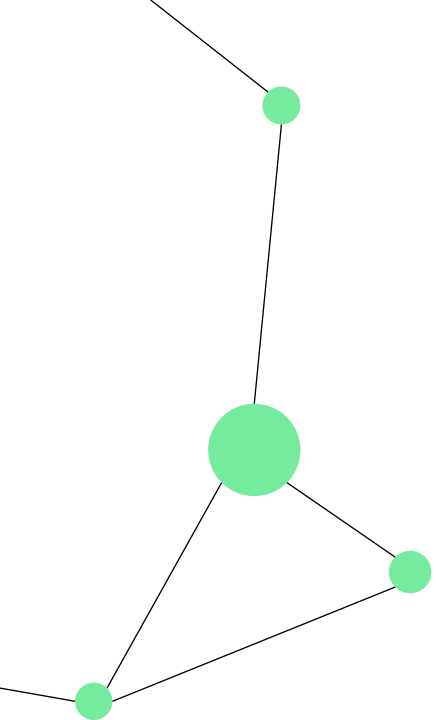
Nominee

- 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
- When applying for an award of 3 million euros: to what extent does the proposed research involve a (significant) need for infrastructure, such as laboratory equipment or computing clusters?
- Potential for long-term cooperation beyond the duration of funding

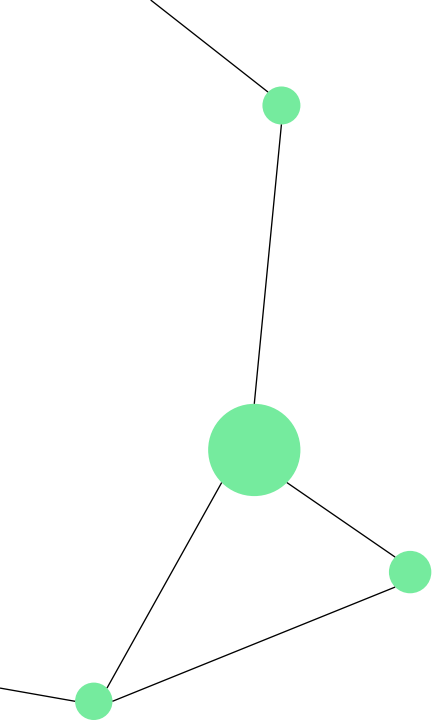




SELECTION CRITERIA

- **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:** Shortlist end of May, final selection in October 2026
 - **Second call:** Open since July 15, submission deadline November 16, 2026, shortlist end of March 2027, final selection in October 2027.





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THANK YOU



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[@humboldt-foundation.de](https://www.instagram.com/humboldt-foundation.de)



www.youtube.com/AvHStiftung