



Family allowance for marital partners

For marital partners accompanying the research fellows to Germany for a period of at least 3 months (without interruption), an application may be submitted for a family allowance for marital partners during the sponsorship period amounting to EUR 276 per month. If marital partners are not required to have a visa for Germany a certified copy of the marriage certificate must be sent to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation together with the application. The application form and further information are available on the Foundation's website at:

<http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/benefits-for-families.html>

Marital partners' earnings (salary or income from employment or self-employment in Germany, German or foreign fellowships) exceeding the upper limit for "marginal" part-time employees (the so-called "Verdienstgrenze für geringfügig Beschäftigte", currently EUR 450 gross per month) will be offset against the family allowance for marital partners.

For fellows accompanied by children under 15 months the following applies:

For children of nationals of the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA) – Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus (Greek part), The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden – and Switzerland a **parental allowance ("Elterngeld")** according to German law (Federal Parental Allowance Act, "BEEG") can be applied for from the day of the child's birth until the end of the 14th month. This also applies to research fellows' marital partners from other countries who spend more than 6 months (without interruption) with their children in Germany. **Further important information is available on our above-mentioned website.** In all these cases, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation cannot grant a family allowance for marital partners. Should the application for a parental allowance be turned down, please get in touch with the Foundation enclosing a copy of the refusal notice and of your residence permit. On principle, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation can only grant a family allowance for marital partners if it can be confirmed that, during the period applied for, a parental allowance according to German law is not being or has not been paid.

Payment of the allowance is discontinued when the marital partner leaves Germany. Wherever possible, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation should be notified of the marital partner's departure 4 weeks in advance. The Foundation should also be informed immediately of any change in the circumstances upon which the decision to grant the allowance was based.

The above regulations also apply in the event of sponsorship for renewed research stays in Germany.

In order to facilitate your application for parental allowance under German law please see the following short information leaflet. You can find further information on parental allowance on the German language Internet page "Elterngeld und Elternzeit" at:

<http://www.bmfsfj.de/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Broschuerenstelle/Pdf-Anlagen/Elterngeld-ElterngeldPlus-und-Elternzeit,property=pdf,bereich=bmfsfj,sprache=de,rwb=true.pdf>

Parental allowance: *Basiselterngeld* or *ElterngeldPlus*?

We recommend that you apply for *Basiselterngeld*. AvH cannot grant a family allowance for your marital partner while you are in receipt of parental allowance. *ElterngeldPlus* is paid for twice as long as *Basiselterngeld*, but at a maximum rate of half your monthly *Basiselterngeld* entitlement. If, for example, you are entitled to the minimum *Basiselterngeld* rate of 300 EUR per month, *ElterngeldPlus* would be paid at 150 EUR per month.

Where to apply for parental allowance

- Baden-Württemberg: *Landeskreditbank Karlsruhe*
- Bayern, Hessen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Saarland: *Versorgungsämter*
- Berlin: *Bezirksämter (Jugendamt)*
- Brandenburg, Rheinland-Pfalz, Thüringen: *Jugendämter*
- Bremen: *Amt für Soziale Dienste* (Bremerhaven: *Amt für Familie und Jugend*)
- Hamburg: *Einwohneramt*
- Niedersachsen: *Kreisfreie Städte, Landkreise, in some cases kreisangehörige Gemeinden*
- Nordrhein-Westfalen: *Kreise, kreisfreie Städte*
- Sachsen: *Landkreise und kreisfreie Städte*
- Sachsen-Anhalt: *Landesverwaltungsamt*
- Schleswig-Holstein: *Außenstellen des Landesamtes für Soziale Dienste*

Who has the right to apply

Parents are eligible to apply if they

- are resident in or have their usual place of residence in Germany
- live together with their children in one abode and have custody of these children
- care for and educate the children themselves
- are not employed for more than 30 hours per week

Foreign parents

Marital partners accompanying Humboldt Foundation research fellows are eligible to apply for parental allowance as soon as they have been granted a residence permit (or settlement permit) by the responsible immigration authorities in Germany which grant or have granted permission to pursue gainful employment. Nationals of EU and EEA states or Switzerland merely have to present proof of registration to document their place of residence.

Entitlement period

Parental allowance may be claimed for the first 14 months of a child's life or for each child in cases of multiple births. Each parent may only claim parental allowance for a maximum of 12 months. Parental allowance is granted for the months of a child's life and retroactively for a maximum of 3 months prior to application. If one of the preconditions for entitlement ceases to be fulfilled before the child has completed the 14th month of life, entitlement ends at the end of the month in which this occurs.

Amount of parental allowance

Parental allowance is income-related from the birth of the child and amounts to a minimum of 300 EUR and a maximum of 1,800 EUR per month. In the case of multiple births an additional 300 EUR per month is paid for the second and every further multiple.

Calculating income

The basis for calculation is the average adjusted net income per month available to the mother or father prior to the birth of the child. In the case of self-employment, profit counts as income.