



Maternity protection and parenthood: Parental support

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation offers research fellows a number of options to support them in raising children, which are described in detail below.

Maternity leave: Extension of the fellowship

If a baby is born to a research fellow during the sponsorship period, the mother may submit a written application to extend the period granted for sponsorship by up to 3 months, in line with statutory maternity rights. It is also possible to extend the sponsorship period if the research fellowship comes to an end during statutory maternity leave (usually 6 weeks prior to and 8 weeks after birth). A medical certificate confirming the pregnancy and stating the expected date of birth as well as the written approval of the academic host are required to process this application. A certified copy of the birth certificate must be submitted after the child is born. The application form is available on the Foundation's website at:

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

Parenthood: Extension or interruption of the research fellowship respectively

- Application in writing may be made to **extend** a research fellowship by up to 12 months if at least one child under the age of 12 when the fellowship begins (for research stays that are divided up into blocks: when the block begins) accompanies the research fellow to Germany during the sponsorship period. This also applies if the first child is born during the sponsorship period. In the event of a pregnancy during the sponsorship period, the research fellow is entitled to an extension if an entitlement to maternity protection according to the German Maternity Protection Act as amended on 20 June 2002 would begin during the sponsorship period. The application form is available on the website of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at:

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

For further children for whose birth the research fellow would be entitled to maternity protection during the sponsorship period, research fellows have the option of extending the sponsorship period by a further three months (corresponding to statutory maternity leave).

If the research fellowship was granted for a sponsorship period of less than 12 months, the extension period may generally not exceed the granted sponsorship period.

The academic host's confirmation of research facilities is required for an extension of the research fellowship to be granted.

- A research fellow may submit a written application (no specific form required) to **interrupt** the research fellowship for up to 18 months if a baby is due to be born or if the research fellow (male or female) is responsible for caring for a child under the age of 12 during the sponsorship period. A written statement from the academic host must be submitted confirming that the object of the fellowship is not endangered.