



Maternity protection and parenthood: Parenting 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 academic host's confirmation of research facilities and mentoring agreement are required to process this application. Decisions on extensions are taken by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation on the basis of the funds at the Foundation's disposal. A certified copy of the birth certificate must be submitted after the child is born.

When the research fellow does not reside in Germany during her maternity leave, the research fellowship will be temporarily interrupted and the fellowship payments will be suspended.

The application form is available on the Foundation's website at:
<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/benefits-for-families.html>

Parenthood: Extension of the research fellowship in the context of parenting support

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. 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 (in the case of experienced researchers research blocks will be summed up if applicable). Extensions of the research fellowship that are based on statutory maternity leave (*cf. A.3.6.3.1.*) will not be taken into account in this connection.

The duration of the extension will be determined on the basis of the actual duration of stay of the accompanying child in Germany. As a prerequisite for claiming an extension, the child must be present in Germany for the entire duration of the extension. The extension ends when the child leaves Germany.

An extension of the research fellowship in the context of parenting support will only be granted if the envisaged research cannot be completed within the available period of time. An extension cannot be granted for work on a new research outline or for work on a new theme which has developed from the original research outline. Decisions on

extensions are taken by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation on the basis of the funds at the Foundation's disposal.

Applications for extension should be submitted to the Foundation three to four months prior to the end of the research fellowship (*cf. A.1.4.*).

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

The application form is available on the website of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at:

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

Parenthood: Interruption of the research fellowship

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.