



FUNDING YOUR RESEARCH IN GERMANY

Grants, fellowships and
awards for international PhD
students and researchers

2021/2022



AN INITIATIVE OF THE



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

Research in
Germany



Land of Ideas



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ABOUT this brochure

Germany is a great place for research. Become part of a large international research community and benefit from various funding opportunities for international researchers!

We have compiled this brochure to help you find the right programme to finance your research stay as a PhD student, postdoc or senior researcher. It contains a selection of the most important funding opportunities and information about how and where you can apply.

The tables at the beginning of our brochure allow you to gain an overview of the funding programmes that best match your needs. At the end of the brochure you will find a convenient list of all the funding organisations and their programmes together in one place.

Links take you to additional information about the programmes or to application websites. Please check there on the details of the application procedure.

Bear in mind that there are many more funding opportunities for your research stay, e.g. programmes that are for researchers in specific fields or only support a small number of individuals. Take a look at the databases at the end of this brochure to learn more.

For additional information, we recommend you contact the respective funding organisation.


We wish you every success!


Details of all programmes are also available online:
www.research-in-germany.org/funding-programmes


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 **PHD STUDENTS** Students who have a degree or a comparable qualification that entitles them to pursue doctoral study or who are working on a doctorate.

 **POSTDOCS/JUNIOR RESEARCHERS** Young researchers who hold a doctorate or a qualification that is equivalent to a doctorate.

 **SENIOR RESEARCHERS** Researchers who hold a doctorate or a qualification that is equivalent to a doctorate and have (several years of) relevant (research) experience.

Professional requirements can vary from one programme to another; please consult the respective programme for precise requirements.

OVERVIEW

Which programme is best for me?
An overview of funding programmes

PHD STUDENTS		
FUNDING PROGRAMME	DURATION	
	Research stay (up to 2 years)	Complete doctorate
DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships		■
Green Talents (BMBF)	■	
Helmholtz Res. Schools & Grad. Schools		■
Indiv. Doctoral Projects at Fraunhofer Institutes		■
Indiv. Doctoral Projects at Leibniz Institutes		■
Indiv. Doctoral Projects at Max Planck Institutes		■
International Max Planck Research Schools		■
Internat. Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Inst.	■	
Leibniz Graduate Schools and ScienceCampi		■
Max Planck Schools (Joint initiative)		■
MSC Doctoral Networks	■	■
PhD Fellowships (Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds)		■
Re-invitation Programme (DAAD)	■	
Res. Grants - Bi-nationally Superv. Doct. Degrees (DAAD)	■	
Res. Grants - Doctoral Programmes (DAAD)		■
Res. Grants - One-Year and Short-Term (DAAD)	■	
Research Training Groups (DFG)		■
Support Early Career Res. in Collab. Res. Centres (DFG)		■





TYPE OF FUNDING		TYPE OF DOCTORATE		PAGE
Grant/ scholarship	Work contract*	Individual doctoral project	Structured doc- toral programme	
■		■		17
■				26
■	■		■	28
	■	■		32
	■	■		33
	■	■		34
	■		■	36
■				37
■	■		■	39
■			■	47
	■		■	68
■		■		48
■				51
■		■		53
■		■	■	54
■		■	■	55
■	■		■	57
■	■	■	■	59

* Provided by a university / non-university research institution



POSTDOCS / JUNIOR RESEARCHERS

FUNDING PROGRAMME	DURATION	
	Short-term (up to 1 year)	Long-term (more than 1 year)
Bilateral Exchange of Academics (DAAD)	■	
DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships	■	■
Emmy Noether Programme (DFG)		■
ERC Consolidator Grants		■
ERC Starting Grants		■
ERC Synergy Grants		■
Fraunhofer Attract		■
Freigeist Fellowships (VolkswagenStiftung)		■
Georg Forster Research Fellowship (Humboldt)	■	■
Grants to Support the Initiation of Internat. Collab. (DFG)	■	
Green Talents (BMBF)	■	
Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups		■
Humboldt Research Fellowship	■	■
Internat. Climate Protection Fellowship (Humboldt)		■
Internat. Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Inst.	■	■
Leibniz Junior Research Groups		■
Lise Meitner Excellence (Max Planck)		■
Max Planck Grants for Advanced Postdoct. Training		■
Max Planck Research Group Leader		■
MSC European Postdoctoral Fellowships		■
Philipp Schwartz Initiative (Humboldt)		■
PRIME (DAAD)		■
Re-invitation Programme (DAAD)	■	
Research Grants - One-Year and Short-Term (DAAD)		■
Research Grants (DFG)	■	
Research Stays for Univ. Academics & Scientists (DAAD)	■	
Research Training Groups (DFG)		■
Scientific Networks (DFG)		■
Support Early Career Res. in Collab. Res. Centres (DFG)		■
Walter Benjamin Programme (DFG)		■





TYPE OF FUNDING			CAREER LEVEL			PAGE
Fellowship/ grant	Work contract*	Funding**	Postdoctoral researcher	Junior research group leader	Junior professor	
■			■			16
■			■			17
	■	■		■		18
		■		■		64
	■	■		■		65
		■	■			66
	■	■		■		19
	■	■		■		21
■			■			24
■			■			25
■						26
	■	■		■		29
■			■			31
■			■			35
■			■			37
		■		■		40
	■	■		■		43
	■		■			44
	■	■		■		46
■			■			67
■			■			49
	■		■			50
■			■			51
	■	■	■			55
■			■			52
■			■			56
■	■		■	■		57
			■	■	■	58
■	■		■	■	■	59
■			■			60

* Provided by a university/ non-university research institution

** Often includes the researchers own salary and expenses for staff and consumables



SENIOR RESEARCHERS

FUNDING PROGRAMME	DURATION	
	Short-term (up to 1 year)	Long-term (more than 1 year)
Alexander von Humboldt Professorship		■
Bilateral Exchange of Academics (DAAD)	■	
DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships	■	
ERC Advanced Grants		■
ERC Synergy Grants		■
Fraunhofer Attract		■
Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award (Humboldt)	■	
Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award (Humboldt)	■	
Georg Forster Research Award (Humboldt)	■	
Georg Forster Research Fellowship (Humboldt)	■	■
Grants to Support the Initiation of Internat. Collab. (DFG)	■	
Heisenberg Programme (DFG)		■
Humboldt Research Award	■	
Humboldt Research Fellowship	■	■
Internat. Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Inst.	■	■
Internat. Visiting Scholars at Leibniz Institutes	■	■
Leibniz Programme for Women Professors		■
Lichtenberg Endowed Prof. (VolkswagenStiftung)		■
Max Planck-Humboldt Research Award		■
Philipp Schwartz Initiative (Humboldt)		■
Re-invitation Programme (DAAD)	■	
Research Grants (DFG)		■
Research Stays for Univ. Academics & Scientists (DAAD)	■	
Scientific Networks (DFG)		■





TYPE OF FUNDING			CAREER LEVEL			PAGE
Fellowship/ award	Work contract*	Funding**	Experienced researcher	Research group leader	Professor	
		■		■		15
■			■			16
■			■		■	17
	■	■	■			63
		■	■			66
	■	■		■		19
■			■			20
■			■			22
■			■			23
■			■			24
■			■			25
■	■		■		■	27
■			■			30
■			■			31
■			■			37
■	■		■			38
		■			■	41
	■				■	42
		■	■			45
■			■			49
■			■			51
	■	■	■			52
■			■			56
			■	■	■	58

* Provided by a university/ non-university research institution

** Often includes the researchers own salary and expenses for staff and consumables



FUNDING

organisations

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT FOUNDATION

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation supports cooperation between outstanding international and German researchers. For that purpose it awards more than 800 research scholarships and prizes every year, including the renowned Alexander von Humboldt Professorship. One special feature is the world-spanning Humboldt Foundation Network that offers lifelong networking, as well as renewed funding and support. This alumni network is made up of over 30,000 Humboldtians, including 56 Nobel Prize winners.

info@avh.de, www.humboldt-foundation.de

GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the world's largest funding organisation for the international exchange of students and researchers. Since its foundation the DAAD has supported over 2.6 million scholars at home and abroad. The members of this largely publicly-funded association are German higher education institutions and student bodies.

postmaster@daad.de, www.daad.de

DEUTSCHE FORSCHUNGSGEMEINSCHAFT

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is the central research funding organisation in Germany. With an annual budget of 3.3 billion euros, it finances approx. 31,000 research projects.

The DFG is an independent, self-governing organisation for science and research. All its decisions are therefore made directly by the research sector itself. The bottom-up principle applies. It serves all branches of science and the humanities. Every postdoctoral researcher at a German research institution can apply to the DFG for funding for his or her research.

info-nachwuchs@dfg.de, www.dfg.de



RESEARCH

organisations

FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is one of the world's leading organisations for applied research. The 74 independent institutes of this association cover a wide range of fields, including health and environment, security and protection, communication and knowledge, transport and mobility, energy and resources as well as production and the provision of services. Fraunhofer works mainly on behalf of contractors in industry or the public sector.

info@zv.fraunhofer.de, www.fraunhofer.com

HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION

Helmholtz is Germany's largest scientific organisation. Its 19 Research Centres run some of the most important large-scale research facilities and scientific infrastructures in Europe. Helmholtz focuses on six research fields: Energy; Earth and Environment; Health; Information; Matter; and Aeronautics, Space and Transport. The Helmholtz Centres cover the entire spectrum from basic to application-oriented research.

org@helmholtz.de, www.helmholtz.de

LEIBNIZ ASSOCIATION

The Leibniz Association connects 96 independent research institutions that range in focus from the natural, engineering and environmental sciences to economic, spatial and social sciences and the humanities. Leibniz Institutes address issues of social, economic and ecological relevance and provide advice to policy-makers, academia, business and the public. They conduct knowledge-driven and applied basic research, maintain scientific infrastructure and provide research-based services.

international@leibniz-association.eu, www.leibniz-association.eu

MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

The Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science is one of Germany's largest independent, non-profit research organisations. More than 12,500 researchers, postdocs, doctoral students, scholarship holders and visiting researchers at 86 Max Planck Institutes and research facilities conduct basic research in the natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences and humanities. The focus is on innovative research fields which are especially demanding in terms of funding or time requirements.

career@gv.mpg.de, www.mpg.de



GERMAN FUNDING PROGRAMMES A-Z



Alexander von Humboldt Professorship

IN BRIEF

Winners of this most highly-endowed research award in Germany are honoured for their outstanding research record and can carry out long-term and groundbreaking research at a university or research institute in Germany. By 2024, up to 30 additional Alexander von Humboldt Professorships will be created in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). Scientists from all disciplines can be nominated for these, provided their work relates to the research and use of AI and its impacts on society.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A nomination can only be made in favour of senior researchers with exceptional qualifications who

- live and work outside Germany
- are eligible to be appointed to full professorships in Germany
- are internationally recognised as leaders in their research field
- can also be expected to complete further cutting-edge research in the future

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The Alexander von Humboldt Professorship is expected to contribute to the internationalisation of forward-looking research areas in Germany.

In addition, it should achieve synergy effects in the development and structure of the host institution.

- The host institution must guarantee that the necessary infrastructure is available to carry out the award winner's research.
- Nominating institutions must explain how they intend to continue the award winner's long-term affiliation to their institution beyond the funding period.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding of 5 million euros for researchers in experimental disciplines, 3.5 million euros for researchers in theoretical disciplines. Award winners may take up to 180,000 euros per year from the award funds as their personal income.

DURATION

5 years.

APPLICATION

Two selection rounds per year; deadlines: 15 April and 15 September. It is not possible for researchers to apply themselves; nominations can only be made by German universities or non-university research institutions jointly with German universities.



Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Bilateral Exchange of Academics

IN BRIEF

The programme supports research stays by researchers and scholars within the framework of bilateral exchange agreements between Germany and partner countries.

WHO CAN APPLY?

International researchers who

- normally will have completed a doctoral degree
- work at a university or research institute in their home country
- have good academic achievements and, if applicable, publications, which must be documented in the CV, and a list of publications
- have a convincing and well-planned research project

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The dates and purpose of the stay must be agreed in advance with the academic host institute in Germany. Applicants require a written acknowledgment from the host confirming the academic cooperation and the availability of a work place.
- Funding is only available when German researchers also apply for a research fellowship at the same time.

- The costs of the outward and return journey are borne by the respective sending country.
- The programme is restricted to certain countries of origin. For country-specific information please check the programme website (see link below).

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 2,000 to 2,150 euros per month, depending on academic status.

DURATION

2 weeks to 3 months.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. The application details vary from country to country. For specific information please check the programme website (see link below).

www.funding-guide.de (please select "DAAD funding programmes only")



PhD students
 Postdocs/Junior researchers
 Senior researchers



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
 German Academic Exchange Service



DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships in the Fields of Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research

IN BRIEF

Outstanding scientists and researchers can conduct research and PhD students can complete a doctorate in the fields of space, aeronautics, energy and transportation research at an institute of the German Aerospace Center (DLR).

WHO CAN APPLY?

International PhD students, postdocs and senior researchers with

- a very good university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree or doctorate in a relevant subject
- excellent English language skills

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The fellowships are defined and awarded on an individual basis. Each fellowship advertisement will indicate the specific qualification requirements and terms of the visit.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

The fellowship for PhD students is 1,760 euros per month with additional flat-rate travel allowance, health insurance and family allowances. Junior researchers receive a fellowship of 2,400 euros per month and senior researchers 2,760 euros per month.

DURATION

- 36 months for PhD students
- 6 to 24 months for junior researchers
- 1 to 3 months for senior researchers

APPLICATION

Please visit the DAAD-DLR website for details of fellowships. Available fellowships and application deadlines are listed under "Current offers". Your application must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. Some documents need to be sent separately by post. For information on how and where to apply, please check the programme website (see link below).



Emmy Noether Programme

IN BRIEF

Outstanding junior researchers can rapidly qualify for leading positions in science and research or for a university teaching career by heading an independent junior research group and assuming relevant teaching duties.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs and professors at an early stage of their careers who hold a temporary post with

- an excellent research project
- at least 2 years and up to a maximum of 4 years (medical researchers: up to 6 years) of postdoctoral experience
- substantial international research experience

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

International applicants are eligible if they intend to continue their research career in Germany after the end of the funding period.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding for an independent junior research group covering expenses for staff and consumables necessary to complete the project during the funding period. This also includes funding for the employment of the research group leader. A family allowance of up to 6,000 euros per year may be requested.

DURATION

Generally 6 years.

APPLICATION

Proposals can be submitted to the DFG at any time. Applications are submitted through an online application portal. You will find information about the application procedure on the programme website (see link below).





Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers

Fraunhofer Attract

IN BRIEF

Fraunhofer Attract offers outstanding scientists the opportunity to develop innovative ideas towards an actual application by setting up their own research group in close cooperation with industry. The grant provides scientists with an attractive package of both funding and management responsibility, as well as outstanding working conditions in optimally equipped Fraunhofer labs.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Junior and senior researchers

- with excellent qualifications and an outstanding research track record
- with at least a PhD or equivalent qualification, preferably postdoctoral experience
- with a promising and innovative idea for industrial application matching the business and technology fields of a specific Fraunhofer Institute
- with a firm grasp of traditional leadership and management skills

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The application must be submitted jointly by the researcher and the Fraunhofer Institute into which the research group is to be integrated.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract and funding of up to 2.5 million euros for 5 years (approx. 500,000 euros per year) for research staff, equipment and the group leader's salary.

DURATION

5 years for the establishment of an independent group; long-term prospect of establishing a new R&D segment within the Fraunhofer Institute and assuming executive functions.

APPLICATION

Two calls for proposals per year. Applications must be submitted to Fraunhofer by email. Only joint applications by the scientist and the institute director are considered. For addresses and application deadlines please check the programme website (see link below).





Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award

IN BRIEF

Award winners are honoured for their achievements in the field of applied research and are invited to conduct a research project of their own choice with fellow experts at one of the Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A nomination can only be made in favour of senior researchers who

- have predominantly lived and worked outside Europe for at least 5 years
- completed their doctorate less than 18 years ago
- are recognised internationally as outstanding researchers in their field of applied research
- are expected to continue producing cutting-edge research and have a lasting impact beyond their area of specialisation

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Award of 45,000 euros.

DURATION

6 to 12 months. The research stay can be divided into blocks.

APPLICATION

Nominations can be submitted at any time. It is not possible for researchers to apply themselves; nominations can only be made by the heads of institutes or senior researchers at Fraunhofer Institutes.



Freigeist Fellowships

IN BRIEF

Freigeist Fellowships support outstanding (junior) researchers who would like to conduct exceptional, high-risk research between established fields of research. They will assume the leadership of their own junior research group and receive the very broadest academic freedom for a clear time frame. The programme consists of two funding phases: the first funding phase focuses on development of independence and a specific research profile, while the second phase is intended to establish the position of the Freigeist Fellow at a research institution in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Outstanding postdocs of all disciplines and nationalities can apply. Applicants should have completed their doctorate at least 1 year, but no more than 4 years previously. A change of academic environment and a stay abroad are required.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Integration in a university or a non-university research institution in Germany is required at the commencement of the Fellowship.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Project-related funding of up to 2.2 million euros is provided for both funding phases, including the Fellow's own salary as junior research group leader. The funding is flexible and can be adjusted according to the progress of the project and personal development.

DURATION

5 (+3) years or 6 (+2) years.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted at any time through the application portal at portal.volkswagenstiftung.de. You will find the application deadline on the foundation's website. It is recommended that you contact the foundation before submitting your application.

Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award

IN BRIEF

Award winners are honoured for their outstanding research record and invited to conduct a research project of their own choice in Germany in close collaboration with fellow experts at a research institution in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A nomination can only be made in favour of senior researchers who

- have predominantly lived and worked outside Germany for at least 5 years
- are recognised internationally as outstanding researchers in their field
- are expected to continue producing cutting-edge research and have a lasting impact beyond their area of specialisation
- completed their doctorate less than 18 years ago

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Award of 45,000 euros.

DURATION

6 to 12 months. The stay can be divided into blocks.

APPLICATION

Nominations can be submitted at any time. It is not possible for researchers to apply themselves; nominations can only be made by established researchers employed at a university or another research institution in Germany.





Georg Forster Research Award

IN BRIEF

Award winners are honoured for their outstanding research record and are invited to conduct a research project of their own choice in Germany in close cooperation with fellow experts at a research institution in Germany. The award is granted to researchers from developing countries, emerging economies and transition states.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A nomination can only be made in favour of senior scientists who

- are nationals of and have been living and working in developing countries, emerging economies or transition states for at least the last 5 years (excluding the People's Republic of China and India)
- are recognised internationally as outstanding researchers in their field and who have had a significant impact on their own discipline and beyond
- are expected to continue developing research-based solutions to the specific challenges facing transition and developing countries

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Award of 60,000 euros. In addition, award winners are invited to carry out research projects of their own choice in Germany in collaboration with fellow experts. To support the collaboration, additional funding of up to 25,000 euros can be granted for conference participation, materials and equipment.

DURATION

Up to 12 months.

APPLICATION

The nomination period usually ends on 31 October of each year. It is not possible for researchers to apply themselves; nominations can only be made by established researchers employed at a university or another research institution in Germany.





Postdocs/Junior researchers

Senior researchers



Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation

Georg Forster Research Fellowship

IN BRIEF

Junior and senior researchers from developing and transition countries can carry out a research project in cooperation with an academic host of their choice in Germany. The research project must deal with issues of relevance to the future development of the candidate's country or region of origin.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Researchers with

- citizenship of or principal place of residence and work in a developing country, emerging economy or transition state (excluding the People's Republic of China and India)
 - a doctorate or a comparable academic qualification completed fewer than 4 years (postdocs) or 12 years (experienced researchers) previously
 - academic publications that have been peer-reviewed according to international standards (postdocs)
 - their own, clearly-defined research profile documented by a comprehensive list of academic publications that have been peer-reviewed according to international standards (experienced researchers)
- several years of independent research experience (experienced researchers)
 - a good knowledge of German or English

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must present confirmation that research facilities are available, as well as a mentoring agreement and a detailed expert's statement by an academic host at a research institution in Germany.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 2,670 euros (postdocs) or 3,150 euros (experienced researcher) per month plus language course, travel expenses, family allowance, extensive alumni sponsorship and allowance for research costs (for the host institution).

DURATION

6 to 24 months (postdocs) or 6 to 18 months (experienced researchers); the fellowship for experienced researchers can be divided up into a maximum of 3 stays.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted online at any time. You can access the online application form on the programme website (see link below).



Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers

Grants to Support the Initiation of International Collaboration

IN BRIEF

This programme serves to establish collaborative relationships between international partners. Researchers can explore opportunities for international collaboration or prepare a concrete joint research project. The programme funds bilateral workshops, trips abroad and guest visits.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Junior and senior researchers who

- hold a doctorate
- are working at a German research institution (in Germany or abroad)
- can outline the basis for the research benefit of the project as well as the concrete objective and the added value created by the international collaboration

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Grant including allowances for participation in bilateral workshops and events in the partner country. Support is provided for visits with daily allowances of 105 to 160 euros or monthly allowances depending on academic status; in addition, allowances are also paid for travel abroad.

DURATION

Maximum of 3 months for trips abroad and guest visits; all activities must take place within 12 months.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted to the DFG at any time. There is a special online application portal for this purpose. You will find information about the application procedure on the programme website (see link below).





PhD students

Postdocs/Junior researchers



Green Talents

IN BRIEF

The winners of this competition are invited to a Science Forum that takes them on a journey to leading German institutions of environmental and sustainability research. Furthermore, Green Talents awardees receive the unique opportunity to complete a BMBF-funded research stay at an institution of their choice during the year following the Science Forum.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Non-German citizens or anyone not residing in Germany who

- is currently enrolled in a Master's or PhD programme or must have completed their degree (Master's/PhD) with significantly above-average grades no more than 3 years before the end of the application period
- has a strong focus on and an interdisciplinary approach to sustainable development
- has an excellent command of the English language

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Grant for a research journey and a research stay.

DURATION

2-week Science Forum; research stay of up to 3 months.

APPLICATION

Detailed information about the programme, including links for a competition alert and the online application tool, are available on the Green Talents website (see link below).



Heisenberg Programme

IN BRIEF

Excellent researchers can prepare for a leading position in science and research and spend time working on an advanced research topic at an institution of their choice. The Heisenberg Programme allows applicants to choose between a Heisenberg fellowship, a Heisenberg position, a Heisenberg temporary substitute position and a Heisenberg professorship.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Senior researchers and professors at an early stage of their careers holding a temporary post who

- qualify for a professorship by holding a postdoctoral habilitation degree or equivalent qualification
- have proven themselves by carrying out particularly outstanding research
- are expected to have the potential to gain further qualifications as university teachers

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The research project must be of high academic quality and originality and meet international standards.
- Those who choose the Heisenberg professorship must find a German university that agrees to continue funding of the position when DFG funding will expire.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 4,450 euros per month, an allowance for direct project costs and a childcare allowance; employment contract for professorship with a basic monthly salary based on the pay scale for professors (depending on the German state, university and the fellow's status), currently approx. 5,300 to 7,500 euros gross. Flexible research funding as well as travel and foreign allowances may be requested.

DURATION

Maximum of 5 years.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted to the DFG at any time. There is a special online application portal for this purpose. You will find information about the application procedure on the programme website (see link below).



Helmholtz Research Schools and Graduate Schools

IN BRIEF

Helmholtz Research and Graduate Schools offer structured doctoral training for highly qualified doctoral researchers in partnership with universities. Young researchers gain considerable experience of close research cooperation between work groups.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Graduates with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- an academic qualification in the field of the respective research institute
- a relevant doctoral research proposal for the respective research group
- a good knowledge of the English language

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract (usually part-time); the salary is based on the collective agreement for public sector employees (currently approx. 4,100 to 4,400 euros per month gross for a full-time position). In many research fields, doctoral researchers receive payment of 65% of a full-time position (approx. 2,600 to 2,900 euros per month gross).

DURATION

Generally 3 years with possible extension of 1 year.

APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the respective Helmholtz Centre. The individual Centres advertise their vacancies or set application deadlines. You will find links to the different schools and vacancies on the website (see link below).



Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups

IN BRIEF

Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups offer outstanding junior researchers early independence and the opportunity to set up and lead their own research group under excellent conditions at a Helmholtz Centre. Leaders of Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups are offered a long-term career perspective and tailored leadership training. They work closely with a university partner and have the opportunity to gain teaching experience and the qualifications for a professorship. Young Investigator Groups are funded in all research fields of the Helmholtz Association: Energy; Earth and Environment; Health; Information; Matter; and Aeronautics, Space and Transport.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs who

- have substantial international research experience
- have outstanding academic achievements
- completed their doctorate between 2 and 6 years ago

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding amounting to a minimum of 300,000 euros per year, including expenses for materials, supplies and investments as well as work contracts for the group leader and for scientific or technical staff (3 on average). Half of the funding comes from the hosting Helmholtz Centre, the other half is provided by Helmholtz. The salary of the group leader (generally based on the collective agreement for public sector employees) is currently approx. 4,500 to 6,500 euros per month gross.

DURATION

5 years with an option of a permanent position in case of a positive evaluation.

APPLICATION

Candidates must apply directly to the respective Helmholtz Centre. You will find details of the application procedure and the application forms on the programme website (see link below). The deadline for applications will be published on the programme website (see link below).

Humboldt Research Award

IN BRIEF

Researchers from abroad, regardless of their discipline or nationality, are honoured for their outstanding research record, and are invited to conduct a research project of their own choice in Germany in close collaboration with fellow experts at a German research institution.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A nomination can only be made in favour of senior researchers who

- have predominantly lived and worked outside Germany for at least 5 years
- are recognised internationally as outstanding researchers in their field and who have had a significant impact on their own discipline and beyond
- are expected to continue producing cutting-edge research

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Award of 60,000 euros; extensive alumni sponsorship.

DURATION

Up to 12 months.

APPLICATION

Nominations can be submitted at any time. It is not possible for researchers to apply themselves; nominations can only be made by established researchers employed at a university or another research institution in Germany.





Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers



Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation

Humboldt Research Fellowship

IN BRIEF

Junior and senior researchers from abroad in all disciplines can carry out their own long-term research project in collaboration with an academic host of their choice at a research institution in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Researchers who

- do not live and work in Germany
- have a doctorate or a comparable academic qualification completed fewer than 4 years (postdocs) or 12 years (experienced researchers) previously
- have academic publications that were peer-reviewed according to international standards (postdocs) or
- already have their own research profile documented by a comprehensive list of academic publications that have been peer-reviewed according to international standards (experienced researchers)
- have several years of independent research experience (experienced researchers)
- have a good knowledge of German or English

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must present a confirmation that research facilities are available, as well as a mentoring agreement and a detailed expert's statement by an academic host at a research institution in Germany.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 2,650 euros per month (postdocs) or 3,150 euros per month (experienced researchers) plus language course, travel expenses, family allowances, extensive alumni sponsorship and allowance for research costs (for the host institution).

DURATION

6 to 24 months (postdocs) resp. 6 to 18 months (experienced researchers), the fellowship for experienced researchers can be divided up into a maximum of 3 blocks within 3 years.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted online at any time. You can access the online application form on the programme website (see link below).

Individual Doctoral Projects at Fraunhofer Institutes

IN BRIEF

PhD students can complete a doctorate while working on exciting projects in the newest areas of technology with state-of-the-art equipment at a Fraunhofer Institute.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- the ability to conduct independent research
- teamworking and communication skills
- a good knowledge of the English language

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

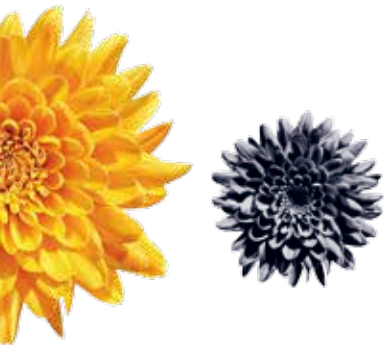
Work contract with a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees. Bonuses possible depending on performance and success.

DURATION

Generally 3 years with possible extension of up to 6 years.

APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the respective Fraunhofer Institute. Vacancies and closing dates are advertised on the websites of individual institutes or on the job exchange (see link below).



Individual Doctoral Projects at Leibniz Institutes

IN BRIEF

PhD students can complete a doctorate while working in an excellent interdisciplinary research environment at a Leibniz Institute.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- the ability to conduct independent research
- teamworking and communication skills
- a good knowledge of the English language

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract (usually part-time) with a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees of the German states (currently approx. 3,800 euros per month gross for a full-time job).

DURATION

Generally 2 to 3 years with possible extension of up to 1 to 2 years.

APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the respective Leibniz Institute. Vacancies and closing dates are advertised on the websites of the individual institutes or on the job exchange (see link below).



Individual Doctoral Projects at Max Planck Institutes

IN BRIEF

PhD students can complete a doctorate within the scope of research work conducted at a Max Planck Institute. The doctoral degree is awarded by a university in Germany or abroad.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- an academic qualification in an appropriate subject for the advertised PhD research or for a relevant PhD research proposal for the respective research project
- previous research experience
- a good knowledge of the English language

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract with a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees (50 per cent), currently just under 2,000 euros per month gross. Depending on personal profile and research area, higher remuneration

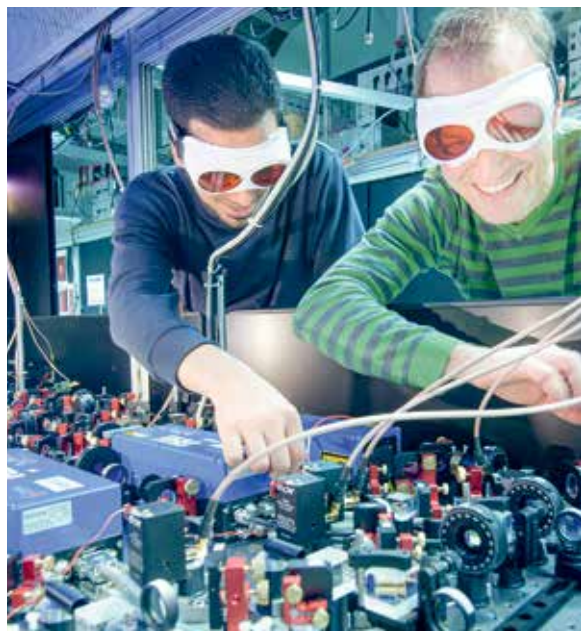
is possible within the framework of a recruitment allowance. In addition, there is a special annual bonus. An (international) research stay may be subsidised.

DURATION

3 years with possible extension of up to 1 year.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted to the respective institute at any time. Vacancies are advertised on the websites of the individual institutes or the Max Planck job exchange (see link below). Job offers and advertisements are also published on Facebook and Twitter.





International Climate Protection Fellowship

IN BRIEF

Climate protection, biodiversity and sustainability are the issues that you can address with the International Climate Protection Fellowship. Fellowships are awarded not only to postdocs, but also to young leaders from non-European emerging economies or developing countries who work in the area of climate protection. The Fellowship allows them to realise a long-term scientific project at a host institution of their choice in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs who

- have successfully completed a PhD or comparable academic degree in the areas of climate protection or climate-relevant resource protection
- can provide evidence of academic publications in journals and publications peer-reviewed according to international standards and
- have very good English and/or German language skills

and young leaders from relevant areas with extensive professional experience, initial experience of leadership positions and relevant leadership skills.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Monthly fellowship of 2,670 euros for postdocs; young leaders receive a monthly fellowship of 2,170 euros to 2,670 euros depending on their career level; additional financial support is available, for example for accompanying family members, travel costs or a German course.

DURATION

12 to 24 months (postdocs);
12 months (young leaders).

APPLICATION

The application deadline is 1 March each year. You can access the online application form on the programme website (see link below).



International Max Planck Research Schools

IN BRIEF

PhD students can complete a doctorate in a structured programme that provides excellent research conditions.

The 65 International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS) are jointly managed by Max Planck Institutes and universities. Students have the choice of receiving their doctorates either from the German university or their home university.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's or Bachelor's degree
- an academic qualification in an appropriate subject for the respective research institute
- relevant research experience
- excellent English language skills

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract with a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees (50%); doctoral students currently receive just under 2,000 euros per month gross. Depending on personal profile and research area, higher remuneration is possible within the framework of a recruitment

allowance. In addition, there is a special annual bonus. An (international) research stay may be subsidised.

DURATION

3 years with possible extension of 1 year.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted to the respective IMPRS. Vacancies and application deadlines are advertised on the websites of the respective institutes or research schools (see link below).





PhD students
Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers



International Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Institutes

IN BRIEF

International researchers can conduct independent research at a Max Planck Institute. The programme aims to strengthen cooperation and promote networking between Max Planck Institutes and their international partners.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Scientists with

- outstanding qualifications
- acknowledged research experience

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Grant and travel allowances are dependent on personal profile and research project.

DURATION

Dependent on the host institute. The duration varies and visits can start at any time. PhD students: up to 6 months; postdocs: up to 2 years.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted directly to the respective Max Planck Institute. Vacancies are advertised on the websites of the individual institutes or the Max Planck job exchange (see link below). As a rule, fellowships for senior researchers are awarded on the initiative of the guests.



International Visiting Scholars at Leibniz Institutes

IN BRIEF

Senior researchers can conduct research at a Leibniz Institute in Germany that relates to their specific field of interest. The respective Leibniz Institute will host the senior scientist and support his or her research in order to strengthen cooperation and promote networking between Leibniz Institutes and their international partners.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Senior scientists with

- outstanding qualifications
- acknowledged research experience

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract or fellowship (depending on the financial resources of the host institute).

DURATION

Dependent on the host institute. The duration varies and visits can start at any time.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted directly to the respective Leibniz Institute. Please feel free to contact the Leibniz Institutes of your interest to enquire whether they host international visiting scholars. In addition, you will find information about positions and application deadlines on the Leibniz job portal linked below.



Leibniz Graduate Schools and Leibniz ScienceCampi

IN BRIEF

PhD students can train in a broad research area within an excellent research environment at an institution with an international reputation. They find ideal conditions for completing a PhD in a structured doctoral programme that can take place either at a Leibniz Institute or a partner university.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students

- with an excellent university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- with an academic qualification in an appropriate subject for the respective graduate school or
- who will meet these requirements within the next 6 months.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract (usually part-time) or scholarship; grants for consumables and travel allowances.

The salary is based on the collective agreement for public sector employees of the German states (currently approx. 4,100 to 4,400 euros per month gross for a full-time job).

The size of the scholarship is based on qualifications and amounts to between 1,150 and 1,450 euros per month.

DURATION

Scholarship for a maximum of 3 years. As a rule, work contracts are limited to 2 to 3 years with the possibility of extension.

APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted directly to the relevant Leibniz Institute. Vacancies and application deadlines are advertised on the websites of the respective institutes or graduate schools (see link below).



Leibniz Junior Research Groups

IN BRIEF

Leibniz Junior Research Groups offer talented and promising junior researchers an opportunity to conduct independent research, employ their own staff and work with excellent equipment and infrastructures. Successful candidates are enabled to set up their own research group in the inspiring research environment of a Leibniz Institute.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdoctoral researchers who

- have completed their doctorate no longer than 5 years ago (exceptions apply)
- have proven outstanding academic achievements in their field and
- are planning to conduct an independent research project

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding: successful candidates will receive funding of up to 1.7 million euros. The funding goes towards the establishment of a junior research group with personnel costs (group leader, 2 to 3 doctoral candidates or postdoc group members) and adequate equipment and facilities.

DURATION

5 years.

APPLICATION

Calls are published every year in November and can be found on the Leibniz Association's website. Candidates are asked to contact the Leibniz Institute of their choice with a draft of their application to discuss their project and its fit within the institute's research strategy. Applications have to be submitted by the institute by March.



Leibniz Programme for Women Professors

IN BRIEF

The Leibniz Programme for Women Professors targets women in all disciplines who have an outstanding international track record. They will be granted a full professorship position (W₂/W₃) which is either permanent or which features a tenure-track option guaranteed by the university and the relevant Leibniz Institute.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Women in all disciplines

- who have an outstanding international track record
- who meet the requirements to hold a professorship or already hold one
- whose research contributes to the institute's and the collaborating university's research strategy

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

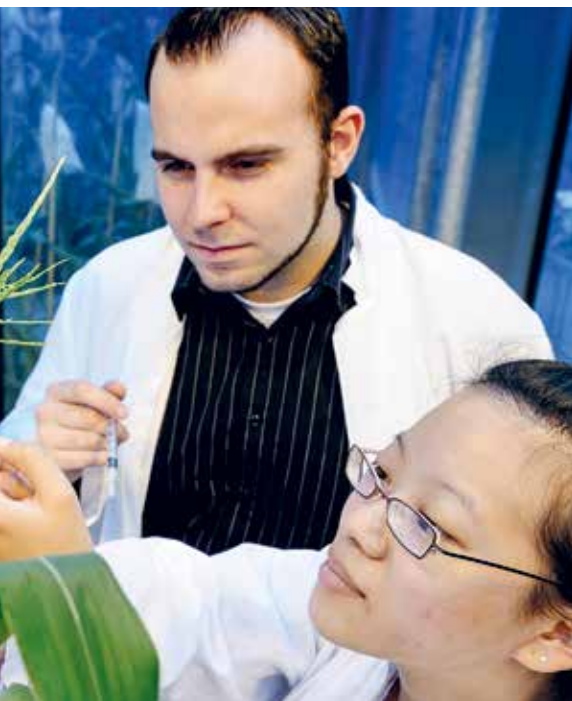
Funding: successful candidates will receive funding of up to 1.7 million euros to fund their professorship, personnel and equipment.

DURATION

5 years, with tenure or permanent position afterwards.

APPLICATION

Calls are published every year in November and can be found on the Leibniz Association's website. Candidates are asked to contact the Leibniz Institute of their choice with a draft of their application to discuss their project and its fit within the institute's research strategy. Applications have to be submitted by the institute by March.





Lichtenberg Endowed Professorships

IN BRIEF

The Lichtenberg Endowed Professorship gives researchers with outstanding qualifications the opportunity to pursue highly innovative developments in contemporary areas of research at a university in Germany. They can define forward-looking and even high-risk subjects, which should also be followed up in an interdisciplinary way if possible, and implement new teaching strategies.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications can be submitted by outstanding researchers

- at the level of an associate (W2) or full (W3) professor
- in innovative fields of research
- in all disciplines and
- of all nationalities

The programme is especially aimed at returning German researchers or applicants from outside Germany.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

A major criterion for the award of the Endowed Professorship is the conceptual and structural strategy of the university at which the professorship is to be based. The Endowed Professorship must be established at a German university.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding: each professorship will be endowed with capital of at least 5 million euros. The Volkswagen Foundation and, if applicable, one of the foundations affiliated to the Stifterverband will each provide starting capital of 1 million euros per professorship. An additional 3 million euros must be raised by the German university. At least the professorship must be financed out of income earned from the capital.

DURATION

The amount is paid at one time. Support is provided for 5 years. The professorship is permanent.

APPLICATION

You can apply at any time. An application must be submitted jointly with the university.

Lise Meitner Excellence Programme

IN BRIEF

This programme enables female junior scientists from all over the world with outstanding qualifications to establish their own research group at one of the renowned Max Planck Institutes.

A tenure-track option offers long-term employment security and clear career prospects.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Highly qualified female scientists who have

- viable and innovative ideas
- ideally already had first group leader experience
- already acted as independent researchers at an early stage of their scientific careers

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding and work contract: the work contract is based on the remuneration system for university teachers (associate professorship – W2 – position). Each Lise Meitner Group receives its own personnel and materials funding and has access to the infrastructure of the respective Max Planck Institute.

DURATION

5 years. Subsequently, there is the opportunity to take part in a tenure-track procedure for a permanent associate professorship.

APPLICATION

Application is only possible in response to an advertisement. Central advertisements are normally published once a year in early spring. All positions are advertised in scientific journals and on their websites.



Max Planck Grants for Advanced Postdoctoral Training

IN BRIEF

Junior researchers can gain additional knowledge and skills at a Max Planck Institute on the basis of their prior professional qualifications.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs with

- an outstanding doctorate in a relevant field completed up to 10 years ago
- at least 2 years of research experience

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract with a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees. The salary is agreed depending on personal profile and research project.

DURATION

As a rule, work contracts are limited to 2 to 3 years.

APPLICATION

Positions are advertised in scientific journals (also in international publications), on the Max Planck job exchange or on the website of the respective institute. It is also possible to take the initiative and contact the respective MPI directly.



Senior researchers



Max Planck-Humboldt Research Award

IN BRIEF

The Max Planck-Humboldt Research Award honours excellent researchers from abroad for their outstanding academic achievements. They are given the opportunity to set up a permanent research project at a host institution of their choice in Germany. The award is bestowed on an annually alternating basis in the fields of natural and engineering sciences, life sciences, and humanities and social sciences.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Researchers can be nominated who

- completed their PhD a maximum of 15 years previously
- at the time of nomination have primarily lived and worked abroad for at least 5 years
- on account of their extremely successful, unconventional, innovative and daring research work can be reasonably expected to achieve further scientific breakthroughs

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Research budget of 1.5 million euros, plus personal prize money of 80,000 euros.

DURATION

5 years.

APPLICATION

Nominations can be made solely by the Max Planck Society.



Max Planck Research Group Leader

IN BRIEF

Junior researchers can conduct independent research work at a Max Planck Institute by establishing their own Max Planck Research Group. Candidates receive their own fixed budget to run their research group, in which PhD students and one postdoc work together on a specific research topic.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Highly qualified postdocs who

- have viable and innovative ideas
- have ideally already had one to two postdoctoral positions
- are in a position to realise an independent research project

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding and work contract. The level of funding depends on the respective research area and research focus. It covers funding for staff, materials and operating costs, including the researcher's own salary (W2 position).

DURATION

5 years with two possible extensions of up to 2 years each.

APPLICATION

Application on advertisement only. Positions at specific institutes are advertised throughout the year. Central advertisements are normally published once a year in autumn. All positions are advertised in scientific journals and on their websites as well as on the websites of the respective institutes.



Max Planck Schools

IN BRIEF

The Max Planck Schools in the forward-looking fields of cognition, photonics and matter to life enable promising PhD students to work in close cooperation with outstanding researchers on the latest and most groundbreaking questions in basic and applied research. Renowned researchers at universities and non-university research institutes all over Germany have come together for these special PhD programmes. As a result, access to excellent infrastructures has become available at various research facilities and universities in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Especially ambitious and promising Bachelor or Master graduates from all over the world.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Scholarship: acceptance at a Max Planck School is linked with financial support.

DURATION

5 years.

APPLICATION

Application is possible on the basis of the requirements of the respective Max Planck School; the selection procedure involves several stages. The respective school outlines the exact requirements and further details on its website.



PhD Fellowships

IN BRIEF

The Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) awards PhD fellowships to outstanding junior researchers who wish to carry out an ambitious scientific PhD project in basic biomedical research at an internationally leading laboratory.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications for BIF PhD fellowships can be submitted by European citizens working in Europe or overseas as well as by non-European citizens pursuing their PhD projects in Europe. The PhD projects must be experimental, in the field of basic biomedical research, and aimed at elucidating basic biological phenomena and acquiring new scientific knowledge.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Fellows are selected by the renowned scientists comprising the Foundation's Board of Trustees. They make their decision on the basis of specialist external reports and personal interviews. The process is highly competitive. A successful PhD fellowship application must therefore be outstanding in terms of the candidate's achievements to date, as well as the scientific quality of the proposed research project and host laboratory.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Basic stipend of 1,650 euros per month plus a flat-rate for research-related costs of 150 euros and country-related premiums (e.g. 2,000 euros in total in Germany). In addition to this:

- personal support
- financial support for international scientific conferences, courses, and laboratory co-operations
- family allowances (e.g. spouse and child care allowances)
- scientific seminars to discuss the fellow's own scientific projects
- communication trainings
- worldwide network of fellows and alumni

DURATION

2 years. Maximum extension: 18 months.

APPLICATION

The deadlines for applications are 1 February, 1 June and 1 October each year.



Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers



Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation

Philipp Schwartz Initiative

IN BRIEF

The Philipp Schwartz Initiative enables universities and research institutions in Germany to host researchers at risk on the basis of a full fellowship.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Support is available for researchers who are demonstrably at risk – irrespective of discipline and country of origin – and

- have completed a PhD or comparable academic degree
- are not yet or have not been resident outside their own country for more than five years at the time of application
- have the language skills required to successfully conduct their research project
- can provide proof of their academic qualifications in the form of relevant publications and
- have the potential to be integrated into the (academic) employment market

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 3,500 euros per month.

DURATION

24 months, with the possibility of extension by 12 months.

APPLICATION

Only academic institutions in Germany are entitled to apply. Researchers interested in the programme should contact eligible host institutions in Germany. Further information on the programme website (see link below).





Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience (PRIME)

IN BRIEF

The PRIME programme enables postdocs of all nationalities who see their long-term career in Germany to combine employment at a German university with a research stay outside Germany. At the same time, they can prepare their subsequent integration into a German institution through regular exchange.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs with

- outstanding qualifications
- a convincing research project that is consistent with the researcher's long-term career planning
- a research plan approved by the two host institutions

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are themselves responsible for establishing contact with their envisaged hosts both outside and inside Germany. Please refer to the programme description for the further application requirements (see link below).

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract; funded researchers receive a work contract at a German university covering the entire funding period.

Remuneration is based on the collective agreement for public sector employees (TV-L E 13). Salaries may range from roughly 4,000 to 5,000 euros per month gross, plus approx. 1,200 to 2,000 euros per month expatriate allowance during the 12 months of the research stay outside Germany. Travel allowances are also paid.

DURATION

18 months, of which the first 12 months are spent outside Germany and the following 6 months (integration phase) are spent at a German university.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. Some documents need to be sent separately by post. For information about the next call(s) for applications please check the programme website.



PhD students
Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Re-invitation Programme for Former Scholarship Holders

IN BRIEF

This programme enables former DAAD scholarship holders to carry out research and work projects at a state-run or state-recognised university or non-university research institute in Germany. Working stays can also be based outside the academic sector.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Former recipients of DAAD research or study scholarships or former GDR scholarship holders

- with a convincing and well-planned research or work project for the stay in Germany
- with outstanding research achievements and, where appropriate, publications
- who returned to their home countries at least 3 years ago

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

DAAD research or study scholarship holders must have been funded for at least 6 months, former GDR scholarship holders must have studied in Germany for at least 1 year.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 2,000 to 2,150 euros per month (depending on academic status) plus travel allowance, unless these costs are borne by another source.

DURATION

1 to 3 months.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. The application details vary from country to country. For country-specific details of addresses and deadlines, please check the programme website.





Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers

Research Grants

IN BRIEF

Junior and senior researchers can realise a research project on a defined subject within a limited period of time. The programme provides support in modular form for direct project costs, project-specific staff, and equipment required to carry out the project. Depending on the project, it is possible to apply for funding for your own position, for assistants' positions or for a visiting researcher.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs and senior researchers who

- hold a doctorate
- are working at a German research institution (in Germany or abroad)
- have a research project of high academic quality and originality that meets international standards

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The applicants must be supported by a statement from a German host institution indicating that it will assume employer responsibilities during the funding period and, in cooperation with the applicant, provide the necessary conditions to carry out the research project.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding depends on the specific proposal modules. The work contract for the project leader's own position is generally based on the collective agreement for public sector employees.

DURATION

The duration of funding is based on the individual project needs (as a rule, several years).

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted to the DFG at any time. There is a special online application portal for this purpose. You will find information about the application procedure on the programme website (see link below).



Research Grants – Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral Degrees /Cotutelle

IN BRIEF

The aim of this programme is to promote doctoral degrees at the home university with integrated research phases in Germany. International PhD students start their doctoral degree in their home country but subsequently spend research periods in Germany. The doctorate is completed in the home country with the participation of the German academic adviser. Within this programme, doctoral degrees on the basis of the so-called cotutelle procedure are also supported.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an excellent university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- a convincing and well-planned research project or course of continuing education

For the cotutelle procedure, applicants must have been accepted onto a doctoral programme by the beginning of the grant at the latest.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The doctorate must have been begun within the last 3 years.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Grant of 1,200 euros per month plus additional allowances during stay(s) in Germany, such as health, accident and personal liability insurance contributions, as well as a research allowance.

DURATION

Up to 2 years. Cotutelle Doctoral Programme: up to 18 months. The grant is suspended during stays at the home university.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. Some documents need to be sent separately by post. Application details vary from country to country. For country-specific information on addresses and deadlines please check the programme website.

Research Grants – Doctoral Programmes in Germany

IN BRIEF

International PhD students can realise a doctoral project (individually or in a structured programme) at a state or state-recognised German university or non-university research institution.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an excellent university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- a convincing and well-planned research project or course of continuing education

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The doctorate must have been begun within the last 3 years.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Grant of 861 to 1,200 euros per month (depending on qualifications) plus additional allowances, such as health, accident and personal liability insurance contributions, a possible travel subsidy, a research allowance and language course.

DURATION

Up to 4 years.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. Some documents need to be sent separately by post. Application details vary from country to country. For country-specific information on addresses and deadlines please check the programme website.



www.funding-guide.de (please select "DAAD funding programmes only")



PhD students
Postdocs/Junior researchers



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Research Grants – One-Year and Short-Term Grants

IN BRIEF

International doctoral candidates and young scholars or researchers can realise a research project at a state or state-recognised German university or non-university research institution.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students and junior researchers with

- an excellent university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree or doctorate
- a convincing and well-planned research and training proposal for the stay in Germany that has been agreed with an academic supervisor at the prospective German host institution

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The doctorate must have been begun within the last 3 years.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Grant of 861 euros to 1,200 euros per month (depending on qualifications) plus additional allowances, such as health, accident and personal liability insurance contributions, a possible travel allowance, a research allowance and language course.

DURATION

One-Year Grants: 7 months up to 12 months (only for PhD students).

Short-Term Grants: 1 month up to a maximum of 6 months.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. Some documents need to be sent separately by post. Application details vary from country to country. For country-specific information on addresses and deadlines please check the programme website.



Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Research Stays for University Academics and Scientists

IN BRIEF

International university teachers and researchers can conduct a short-term research stay at a state-run or state-recognised university or non-university research institute in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

International junior and senior researchers who

- should generally hold a doctorate
- work in a higher education institution or a research institute in their home country
- have good academic achievement and recent publications
- have a convincing and well-planned research project that must be coordinated with an academic host institute in Germany

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Applicants require a written acknowledgement from the host confirming the availability of a work position.

For country-specific information please check the programme website (see link below).

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 2,000 to 2,150 euros per month, depending on academic status, generally including a travel allowance.

DURATION

1 to 3 months.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. The application details vary from country to country. For country-specific information on addresses and deadlines please check the programme website.



www.funding-guide.de (please select "DAAD funding programmes only")



PhD students
Postdocs/Junior researchers

Research Training Groups

IN BRIEF

Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs) are set up by universities and pursue a focused research programme. PhD students and postdocs can complete a doctorate or engage in independent research activities. Additional skills programmes strengthen their expertise for the research and higher education job market. Highly qualified and renowned postdoctoral researchers can also take on the leadership of a project.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students and junior researchers with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree or doctorate in a relevant subject
- excellent English language skills

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Specific requirements are laid down by the individual Research Training Groups and projects and the respective doctoral regulations. Research specialty and qualifications should match the focus of the respective Research Training Group or project.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract or scholarship. As a rule, a work contract offers a salary based on the collective agreement for public-sector employees of the German states (usually 65% to 100% of a full-time post at TV-L E13 level, which is up to 4,200 euros per month gross). The scholarship amounts to up to 1,365 euros per month plus an allowance for direct project costs of 103 euros per month.

DURATION

Work contracts and scholarships are usually limited to 2 to 3 years.

APPLICATION

Research Training Groups usually advertise vacancies and scholarships publicly, and the details can be found on their websites. Applications should be submitted to the coordinator of the respective Research Training Group. You will find an up-to-date list of all Research Training Groups on the programme website. Vacancies and scholarships are also advertised on the DFG's website (see link below).



Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers

DFG

Scientific Networks

IN BRIEF

Researchers holding a PhD title are given the opportunity to set up a scientific network of 10 to 20 people with a view to engaging in multi-year exchange and cooperation on a scientific topic of their choice, across locations, with the aim of achieving a specific outcome, e.g. the preparation of a joint project or the further development of research methods. PhD candidates can also be included.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Qualified researchers (with a doctorate) at a German research institution (also abroad). Up to 50% of the network can be made up of international researchers.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Travel and maintenance costs for work meetings of network members and for thematically relevant guests, coordination costs and publication costs.

DURATION

Up to 3 years.

APPLICATION

Proposals can be submitted to the DFG at any time. Applications are submitted via an online application portal. You will find information about the application procedure on the programme website (see link below).



www.dfg.de/scientific_networks



PhD students
Postdocs/Junior researchers

Support for Early Career Researchers within Collaborative Research Centres

IN BRIEF

Collaborative Research Centres (CRCs, Sonderforschungsbereiche) can offer PhD students and junior researchers opportunities to pursue an outstanding research programme that crosses the boundaries of disciplines, institutes, departments and faculties. The relevant university may also offer further opportunities for training its doctoral researchers, for example within a structured doctoral programme. Highly qualified and renowned postdoctoral researchers can also take on the leadership of a project or a junior professorship within a CRC.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students and junior researchers with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree or doctorate in a relevant subject
- excellent English language skills

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract or fellowship. A work contract offers a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees of the German states.

DURATION

Work contracts and fellowships are usually limited to 2 to 3 years.

APPLICATION

CRCs usually advertise vacancies and fellowships publicly, and the details can be found on their websites. Applications should be submitted to the coordinator of the respective CRC. An up-to-date list of all CRCs is available on the programme website. Vacancies and fellowships are also advertised on the DFG's website (see link below).

Walter Benjamin Programme

IN BRIEF

This programme gives early career researchers with outstanding qualifications the chance to pursue their own research project at a German research institution of their choice – and researchers integrated into the German research system the opportunity to go abroad.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs at a very early stage of their academic career.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

For a research stay abroad: fellowship. For Germany: funding of a research position; allowance to cover direct project costs and, where applicable, additional publication costs (book format).

DURATION

Generally up to 2 years.

APPLICATION

Proposals can be submitted to the DFG at any time. Applications are submitted via an online application portal. You will find information about the application procedure on the programme website (see link below).





A photograph of two scientists in a laboratory. A man on the left and a woman on the right, both wearing white lab coats and safety glasses, are looking down at a document held by the woman. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with shelves of equipment.

EUROPEAN FUNDING PROGRAMMES A-Z

ERC Advanced Grants

IN BRIEF

Senior researchers of any nationality can carry out research projects at the frontiers of knowledge at a host institution (universities, research institutions, companies or international organisations) in Germany (or another EU member state or associated country). Applications can be made in any field of research.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Senior scientists with

- an outstanding track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years
- a ground-breaking and ambitious research proposal

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The host institution must employ the researcher for at least the duration of the project. Applicants must provide a letter of commitment from the host institution.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding of up to 2.5 million euros, in exceptional cases up to 3.5 million euros, to complete a research project of the researcher's choice. The researcher's salary may also be (partly) paid out of these funds.

DURATION

Up to 5 years.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online by the researcher on behalf of the host institution through the Funding & Tenders Portal (see link below). ERC Advanced Grants are advertised once a year.



ERC Consolidator Grants

IN BRIEF

Postdoctoral researchers of any nationality can strengthen their research independence through the consolidation of their own research team at a host institution (universities, research institutions, companies or international organisations) in Germany (or another EU member state or associated country). Applications can be made in any field of research.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Researchers who

- completed an excellent PhD, generally between 7 and 12 years ago
- are at the beginning of an independent research career and have already shown research independence
- have a promising academic track record
- present a ground-breaking and ambitious research proposal

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The host institution must employ the researcher for at least the duration of the project. Applicants must provide a letter of commitment from the host institution.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding of up to 2 million euros, in exceptional cases of up to 3 million euros, to complete a research project of the researcher's choice. The researcher's salary may also be (partly) paid out of these funds.

DURATION

Up to 5 years.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online by the researcher on behalf of the host institution through the Funding & Tenders Portal (see link below). ERC Consolidator Grants are advertised once a year.



ERC Starting Grants

IN BRIEF

Postdoctoral researchers of any nationality can strengthen their research independence by establishing their own research team at a host institution (universities, research institutions, companies or international organisations) in Germany (or another EU member state or associated country). Applications can be made in any field of research.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Researchers who

- completed an excellent PhD, generally between 2 and 7 years ago
- are at the beginning of an independent research career and have already shown research independence
- have a promising academic track record
- present a ground-breaking and ambitious research proposal

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The host institution must employ the researcher for at least the duration of the project. Applicants must provide a letter of commitment from the host institution.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding of up to 1.5 million euros, in exceptional cases up to 2.5 million euros, to complete a research project of the researcher's choice. The researcher's salary may also be (partly) paid out of these funds.

DURATION

Up to 5 years.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online by the researcher on behalf of the host institution through the Funding & Tenders Portal (see link below). ERC Starting Grants are advertised once a year.





Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers



ERC Synergy Grants

IN BRIEF

ERC Synergy Grants are awarded to groups of two to four outstanding researchers of any nationality. They can be at the start of their careers or established researchers and should bring together complementary skills, knowledge and resources to address research problems that could lead to breakthroughs not achievable by the individual researchers working alone. Applications can be made in any field of research.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A group of excellent researchers that

- is interdisciplinary
- plans to use multidisciplinary approaches and
- has a ground-breaking and ambitious research proposal that would not be possible working alone

Researchers must present an early achievement track record or a ten-year track record, whichever is most appropriate.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The host institutions (universities, research institutions, companies or international organisations) must be in Europe (EU member state or associated country). However, one researcher per Synergy Grant group at any one time can be hosted or engaged by an institution outside the EU or an associated country. The host institutions must employ the researchers for at least the duration of the project. Applicants must provide a letter of commitment from the host institutions.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding of up to 10 million euros, in exceptional cases up to 14 million euros, for a research project of the researchers' choice. The researchers' salary may also be (partly) paid out of these funds.

DURATION

Up to 6 years.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online by the researchers on behalf of the host institutions through the Funding & Tenders Portal (see link below). ERC Synergy Grants are usually advertised once a year.



Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Postdoctoral Fellowships

IN BRIEF

Postdoctoral researchers of any nationality can enhance their qualifications and diversify their competences by conducting a research project at a host institution (universities, research institutions, companies or international organisations) in Germany (or another EU member state or associated country).

WHO CAN APPLY?

Researchers who

- completed a PhD
- have a maximum of 6 years full-time equivalent experience in research at the call deadline
- have not resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the host institution for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the call deadline

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 5,150 euros per month gross (depending on the host country), plus 600 euros mobility allowance and (if applicable) 660 euros family allowance. Host institutions receive funds for research, training, networking, management and indirect costs.

DURATION

12 to 24 months. If justified in the proposal, an additional period of up to 6 months can be awarded to researchers who will spend that period in a non-academic organisation established in an EU Member State or associated country.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online by the host institution and the researcher through the Funding & Tenders Portal (see link below). Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Postdoctoral Fellowships are advertised once a year.





Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Networks

IN BRIEF

PhD students receive structured doctoral training within these networks, which are formed jointly by different European institutions. They can apply for positions that are especially created by these networks.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students or researchers with less than 4 years of research experience who

- have not been awarded a doctoral degree at the time of recruitment
- enrolled in a doctoral programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or associated country
- have not resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the host institution for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to taking up the position

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract with a salary of approx. 3,450 euros per month gross (depending on the host country); plus 600 euros mobility allowance and (if applicable) 660 euros family allowance. The research costs of the host organisation(s) are also supported.

DURATION

The networks are funded for up to 4 years. PhD students can be employed in a network for a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 3 years.

APPLICATION

Positions created by the Doctoral Networks are advertised on the EURAXESS job portal (see link below). It is not possible for individual researchers to apply directly to the EU. Applications must be submitted to the respective network. Please check the job advertisements for details on vacancies and deadlines.





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Research in Germany

The www.research-in-germany.org website offers comprehensive information on the structure of research funding in Germany, a concise overview of individual funding opportunities at various organisations and numerous links to funding databases.

www.research-in-germany.org/funding

DAAD funding database

The scholarship database of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) contains extensive information for those who are seeking financial support for their studies, research work or teaching assignments in Germany.

www.funding-guide.de

PhDGermany

The DAAD database PhDGermany contains a wide range of PhD positions in universities, companies and research institutions and is continually updated.

www.phdgermany.de

Stifterverband

Founded in 1920, the Stifterverband supports research and higher education on behalf of the German business community and is comprised of more than 3,000 companies, foundations, business associations and individuals. This website provides a search engine for research grants and other funding opportunities offered by nearly 550 foundations.

www.deutsches-stiftungszentrum.de/foerderung
(in German)



Association of German Foundations

The Association of German Foundations represents the interests of over 23,000 foundations in Germany. With over 4,500 members, it is the largest and oldest association of foundations in Europe. Its website offers a free online search facility covering roughly 12,000 foundations that are active in Germany.

www.stiftungssuche.de
(in German)

EURAXESS Germany funding database

The EURAXESS Germany funding database contains information for international researchers on funding opportunities, vacancies, social security and tax matters as well as other issues relating to researcher mobility.

www.euraxess.de

European funding programmes

The European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi) helps you to find your way through the European funding jungle.

www.kowi.eu



ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

“Research in Germany – Land of Ideas”

WHAT IS “RESEARCH IN GERMANY”?

“Research in Germany” is an initiative of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. It presents Germany as a country of research and innovation and creates a forum for international exchange and cooperation.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF “RESEARCH IN GERMANY”?

“Research in Germany” provides international researchers with information about funding and career opportunities in Germany. The initiative gives research and science organisations from all over the world the chance to establish contact with potential German partners in the fields of science, research and industry. The initiative presents itself online at www.research-in-germany.org, as well as at international conferences and fairs.

This and many other “Research in Germany” publications are available at

www.research-in-germany.org/downloads

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