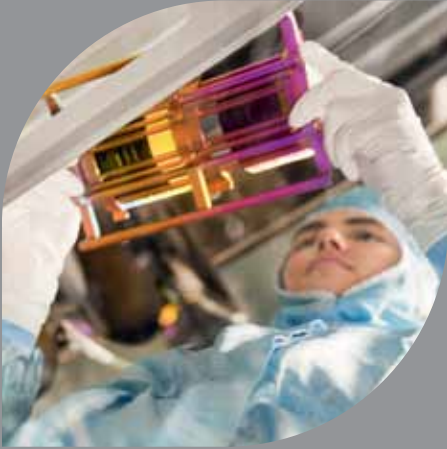


# German Funding Programmes for Scientists and Researchers

Funding Opportunities for International PhD Students,  
Postdocs, Junior and Senior Researchers





Find us online!



[www.research-in-germany.de](http://www.research-in-germany.de)



[facebook.com/research.in.germany](https://facebook.com/research.in.germany)



[twitter.com/ResearchGermany](https://twitter.com/ResearchGermany)

## Welcome to the Land of Ideas!

Thank you for your interest in a study or research stay in Germany. We have produced “German Funding Programmes for Scientists and Researchers” as a guide to help you find your way around the multitude of funding opportunities for your research project in Germany.

Germany is a good place for your research because of the emphasis it places on globally networked research cooperation. Today over 35,000 scientific and artistic personnel from all over the world – including roughly 2,800 professors – work at German institutions of higher education. And more than 32,000 international researchers and academics are being supported with scholarships from foundations, funding organisations and research institutions. Germany offers them multifaceted opportunities to work in inspiring surroundings with highly qualified colleagues.

German higher education institutions are among the best in the world. There are more than 390 higher education institutions with outstandingly equipped research centres and excellently trained staff. Hundreds of non-university research institutions also offer ideal working conditions that are rarely matched anywhere in the world.

German industry too is strongly engaged in research and development (R&D). Two thirds of the almost 80 billion euros that are invested in this field come from companies.

Germany shows special commitment towards solving global challenges – including climate change and a sustainable energy supply. However, advances in these areas would be impossible without international cooperation. Therefore, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) supports the development of international contacts and networks involving German higher education institutions, research facilities and businesses.

We would highly appreciate your involvement in such cooperation!

## About this Brochure

“German Funding Programmes for Scientists and Researchers” presents a selection of the funding opportunities offered by German research funding organisations and research performing organisations as well as a number of European scholarship programmes. The brochure is specifically aimed at international researchers: PhD students, postdocs/junior researchers and senior researchers. For more information about the programmes described here, we recommend you contact the respective funding organisation.

In addition to the named programmes, Germany offers numerous other funding opportunities for your research stay. If you would like to learn more about Germany’s research opportunities and research funding system, we would advise you to take a closer look at the databases listed at the end of this brochure, which provide details of additional support programmes for your research work in Germany.

We wish you every success in conducting your research in Germany.





## CONTENTS

Editorial .....	3
About this Brochure .....	4
German Research Funding Organisations .....	6
German Research Performing Organisations .....	8
Research and Development in Germany .....	10
European Research Funding .....	12
German Funding Programmes for Scientists and Researchers .....	14
All Funding Programmes Listed by Funding Organisation .....	62
Useful Links .....	64
About Research in Germany/Imprint .....	66



**PHD STUDENTS** Students who have a degree or a comparable qualification that entitles them to pursue doctoral study and who are working on a doctorate. **Pages 16 – 31**



**POSTDOCS/JUNIOR RESEARCHERS** Young researchers who hold a doctorate or a qualification that is equivalent to a doctorate. **Pages 23 – 48**



**SENIOR RESEARCHERS** Researchers who hold a doctorate or a qualification that is equivalent to a doctorate and have (several years of) relevant (research) experience. **Pages 28 – 31, 43 – 60**

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



# German Research Funding Organisations

## Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation promotes academic cooperation between excellent scientists and scholars from Germany and abroad. Every year the foundation grants more than 750 research fellowships and awards. These allow scientists and scholars from all over the world to come to Germany to work on a research project they have chosen themselves together with a host and collaborative partner. The alumni network is the foundation's greatest asset, comprised of over 26,000 Humboldtians in more than 140 countries – including 50 Nobel laureates.

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Jean-Paul-Str. 12, 53173 Bonn, Germany  
info@avh.de, [www.humboldt-foundation.de](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de)



**Alexander von Humboldt**  
Stiftung/Foundation

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## German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the organisation of German higher education institutions and their student bodies devoted to internationalising the academic and scientific research system. Through its scholarship programme, the DAAD enables students, researchers and instructors to take advantage of the best study and research opportunities available. It promotes transnational cooperation and university partnerships, and is the German national agency for EU higher education cooperation. The DAAD operates a network of 70 branch offices and Information Centres worldwide. In 2013, the DAAD provided funding to almost 120,000 German and foreign academics around the world.

German Academic Exchange Service

Kennedyallee 50, 53175 Bonn, Germany  
[study-in-germany@daad.de](mailto:study-in-germany@daad.de), [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)

**DAAD**



## German Research Foundation (DFG)

The German Research Foundation (DFG) is the central self-governing research funding organisation in Germany. It serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects at universities and other research institutions. It is an association under private law whose members are German research universities, non-university research institutions, scientific associations and the Academies of Science and the Humanities. The DFG is largely funded by the Federal States and the Federal Government, which are represented in all Grants Committees. The voting system and procedural regulations guarantee science-driven decisions.

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft  
Kennedyallee 40, 53175 Bonn, Germany  
[info-nachwuchs@dfg.de](mailto:info-nachwuchs@dfg.de), [www.dfg.de](http://www.dfg.de)



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## The Project Management Agency at DLR

The Project Management Agency at the German Aerospace Center is a service provider for the facilitation of research, innovation and education. The covered spectrum of topics ranges from environment, culture, education and key technologies to innovation and research transfer. Among other tasks, the agency supports the Federal Ministry of Education and Research with the implementation of research and mobility programmes to strengthen ties between universities, research institutions and enterprises.

German Aerospace Center  
Project Management Agency European and  
International Cooperation, Dr. Jörn Sonnenburg  
Heinrich-Konen-Str. 1, 53227 Bonn, Germany  
[eiz@dlr.de](mailto:eiz@dlr.de), [www.pt-dlr.de](http://www.pt-dlr.de)



**DLR Project Management Agency**

# German Research Performing Organisations

## Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft

With an annual research budget of 2 billion euros and more than 23,000 employees, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is one of the world's leading organisations for applied research. Fraunhofer's R&D portfolio covers a wide range of fields, including health, security, communications, transport, energy and the environment.

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Dr. Raoul Klingner  
Hansastr. 27c, 80686 München, Germany  
raoul.klingner@fraunhofer.de, [www.fraunhofer.de](http://www.fraunhofer.de)



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## Helmholtz Association

The Helmholtz Association contributes to solving major challenges facing society, science and industry with top scientific achievements in six research areas: energy, earth and environment, health, key technologies, structure of matter and aeronautics, space and transport. With almost 36,000 employees in 18 research centres and an annual budget of approximately 3.8 billion euros, the Helmholtz Association is Germany's largest scientific organisation. Its work follows the tradition of the great natural scientist Hermann von Helmholtz (1821–1894).

Helmholtz Association  
Nina Löchte/Dr. Caroline Krüger  
Anna-Louisa-Karsch-Str. 2, 10178 Berlin, Germany  
org@helmholtz.de, [www.helmholtz.de](http://www.helmholtz.de)







## Leibniz Association

The Leibniz Association is an umbrella organisation of 89 research institutes. The annual budget amounts to 1.5 billion euros. Some 8,800 researchers – more than 1,600 of them from abroad – work on a widely diverse range of subjects, including the humanities and social sciences, economics, spatial and life sciences, mathematics, natural and engineering sciences and environmental research.

Leibniz Association, Dr. Almuth Wietholtz-Eisert  
Chausseestr. 111, 10115 Berlin, Germany  
[wietholtz@leibniz-gemeinschaft.de](mailto:wietholtz@leibniz-gemeinschaft.de)  
[www.leibniz-association.eu](http://www.leibniz-association.eu)



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## Max Planck Society (MPG)

The Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science is one of Germany's largest independent, non-profit research organisations. A combined total of more than 10,000 researchers, postdocs/junior researchers and visiting researchers at 83 Max Planck Institutes conduct basic research in the natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences and humanities. More than one third of the researchers and more than half of the junior and visiting researchers come from abroad.

Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung  
der Wissenschaften e. V., Daniela Schäfer  
Hofgartenstr. 8, 80539 München, Germany  
[career@gv.mpg.de](mailto:career@gv.mpg.de), [www.mpg.de](http://www.mpg.de)



MAX-PLANCK-GESellschaft

## Research and Development in Germany

Germany is a land of science and research. The development of innovative technologies and products is an important foundation of the world's fourth largest economy. With a 12.1% share of world trade, Germany is the world's largest exporter of R&D-intensive products. Germany invests roughly 80 billion euros a year in research and development. Most of these funds come from companies, a sum of approx. 54 billion euros in 2012.

More than a quarter of all industrial enterprises in Germany actively engage in research: almost 9,500 manufacturing companies conduct research and development, including many SMEs. In total, roughly 34,000 companies carry out research and development in Germany. Some 350,000 of the total of 590,000 scientists in the research and development field work in the private sector, a quarter of them in the automotive industry. However, the electrical industry, the chemicals and pharmaceuticals sector and engineering firms also have a high demand for R&D personnel. German companies therefore offer interesting fields of employment for international experts.

Biotechnology, innovative services, information and communication technologies, microsystems technology, nanotechnologies, optical technologies and production and materials technologies are important research fields of the future – above all, in fields of application such as automotive, medical technology, mechanical engineering and logistics. This is why the Federal Government supports research in these key technologies, where higher education institutions and non-university research institutes work hand in hand with research performing companies.





### COMPANIES AS FUNDERS

German industry is not just an employer in this field. Many businesses also actively engage in promoting talent and research or endow university chairs. Companies finance over 400 of the current total of 1,000 privately funded professorships. The focus here is firmly on developing research talent. Young researchers are supported with scholarships and prizes – usually awarded by corporate foundations.

### ASSOCIATION OF DONORS

Some 3,000 companies, business associations, foundations and private individuals have joined together in the Stifterverband für die deutsche Wissenschaft. This association maintains a database of undergraduate, postgraduate and postdoctoral scholarships as well as funding for specific research projects or expeditions with which (corporate) foundations support researchers. Searches of this information can be carried out at:

[www.stifterverband.info/stiftungen\\_und\\_stifter/foerderung](http://www.stifterverband.info/stiftungen_und_stifter/foerderung)  
(in German only)

### SUPPORT FROM FOUNDATIONS – SELECTED EXAMPLES

Many private foundations are also active outside the Stifterverband. The Volkswagen Foundation, for example, has supported more than 30,000 projects with around 4 billion euros in the 52 years since it was established. That makes it Germany's largest charitable foundation established under private law.

[www.volkswagenstiftung.de](http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de)

The Daimler and Benz Foundation was established in 1986 by Daimler-Benz AG in memory of the company's two founders. It supports interdisciplinary research that seeks to clarify the interplay of forces between humanity, technology and the environment. For example, it offers postdoctoral fellowships that help young researchers realise their own research projects at German universities or research institutions.

[www.daimler-benz-stiftung.de](http://www.daimler-benz-stiftung.de)

## European Research Funding

The European Union (EU) can draw on an enormous pool of innovative resources, technological expertise and new ideas. European research policy aims to concentrate these qualities and make them productive, exploit synergies and strengthen Europe's competitiveness in the world. Europe means business here: Horizon 2020, the new European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation with a total budget of nearly 80 billion euros until 2020, is the biggest EU research and innovation programme ever. Europe has set itself three priorities here: excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges.

When it comes to realising excellent science, Horizon 2020 not only supports European research infrastructure measures, but also research into future and emerging technologies (FET). In 2013, two of these promising mega-research projects were awarded the EU's largest ever research grants of one billion euros each: the Graphene Project and the Human Brain Project under Swedish and Swiss leadership respectively. Both projects are well networked in Europe, and German researchers are making a major contribution.

[www.graphene-flagship.eu](http://www.graphene-flagship.eu)

[www.humanbrainproject.eu](http://www.humanbrainproject.eu)

In 2014, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) continue to promote mobility and cooperation among international researchers with the goal of strengthening the European Research Area. In Horizon 2020 a total budget of 6.2 billion euros has been allocated for MSCA to support mainly young researchers to carry out research in Europe. MSCA are open to all disciplines and subdivided into individual and institutional funding schemes. Institutional MSCA help networks of organisations to jointly train junior research talent and promote international cooperation between the academic and non-academic sectors. MSCA Fellowships sponsor individual research projects carried out by young international researchers in cooperation with their host institutions.

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon2020>

> Horizon 2020 Programme > Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions





Groundbreaking research is being supported by the European Research Council (ERC). Since 2007 this body has funded basic research to advance projects at the frontier of knowledge. The focus of attention is on the outstanding research of the individuals involved and the innovativeness and progressivity of the project idea. Project proposals can be submitted by outstanding researchers who wish to carry out research in an institution in Europe.

<http://erc.europa.eu>  
[www.erc-germany.de](http://www.erc-germany.de)

National Contact Points (“Nationale Kontaktstellen” – NKS) provide information about Horizon 2020 and support applicants during all phases of the application process – from the classification of an idea to the drafting and submission of the application to the implementation of the project.

[www.horizont2020.de/beratung-nks.htm](http://www.horizont2020.de/beratung-nks.htm)  
(in German only)

In addition to the research and innovation programme Horizon 2020, the European Union supports young Europeans engaged in studying, training, work experience or voluntary activities abroad with the Erasmus+ programme. Students, junior researchers and academic staff at higher education institutions can also receive funding from this new EU programme for education, training, youth and sport. It will support not only the mobility of students and researchers, but also, among other things, research alliances between higher education institutions and companies. Over 4 million scholarship holders will then be able to complete part of their training abroad. Some 14.7 billion euros are to be made available to the programme until 2020.

<http://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus>

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A guide to European funding opportunities is available at  
<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/find-your-area>

A comprehensive Europe-wide scholarship database, supported by the European Commission and the Erasmus programme, is available at [www.scholarshipportal.eu](http://www.scholarshipportal.eu)

# German Funding Programmes for Scientists and Researchers







# Individual Doctoral Projects at Fraunhofer Institutes

## REQUIREMENTS

As a rule, candidates are expected to have successfully completed a university degree comparable to a German Master's degree and be capable of conducting independent research. In addition, teamworking and communication skills are required as well as a good knowledge of the English language.

## DURATION

Generally 3 years with option to renew.

## APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the Fraunhofer Institute of your choice. Vacancies are advertised on the websites of individual institutes or on the job exchange.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

PhD students receive the opportunity to work on exciting projects in the newest areas of technology with state-of-the-art equipment.

## SUPPORT

Funding is based on the German public service pay scale and includes attractive benefits and flexible, family-friendly working conditions.

<https://recruiting.fraunhofer.de/Jobs>

For an overview of all vacancies, visit:

[www.fraunhofer.de/en/jobs-career](http://www.fraunhofer.de/en/jobs-career)







## Individual PhD Thesis at Helmholtz Centres

### REQUIREMENTS

As a rule, candidates are expected to have an outstanding university degree comparable to a German Master's degree in an appropriate subject for the advertised doctoral research or for a PhD research proposal that is relevant to the respective research project. Candidates should also have research experience. English language skills are essential.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Helmholtz Centres offer PhD students an excellent research environment and interdisciplinary postgraduate training and research work.

### SUPPORT

Fellowships or work contracts; the funding amount is based on qualification level and family status.

### DURATION

Generally 3 years with possible extension.

### APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the Helmholtz researcher/supervisor. Doctoral research positions are advertised on the Helmholtz Association website.



[www.helmholtz.de/jobs](http://www.helmholtz.de/jobs)



# International Helmholtz Research Schools and Graduate Schools

## REQUIREMENTS

As a rule, candidates are expected to have an outstanding university degree comparable to a German Master's degree in an appropriate subject for the desired research institute, previous research experience and a relevant PhD research proposal for the respective research group. English language skills are essential.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

These research schools and graduate schools offer structured doctoral programmes for highly qualified PhD students in partnership with universities. Young researchers gain considerable experience of close research cooperation between work groups. In addition, they receive professional skills and personal development training.

## SUPPORT

Fellowships or work contracts; the funding amount is based on qualification level and family status.

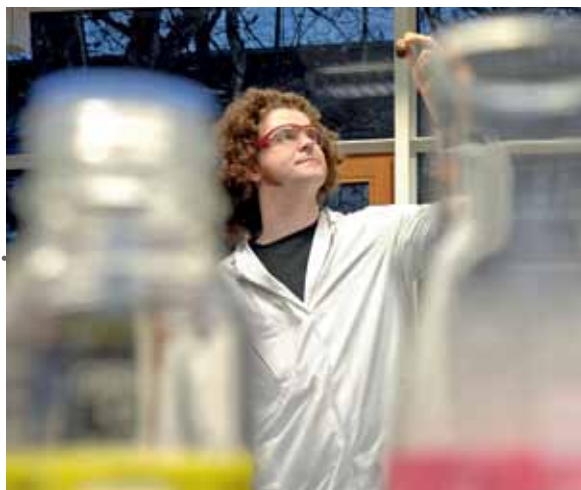
## DURATION

Generally 3 years with possible extension.

## APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the Helmholtz research schools or graduate schools. The individual schools advertise their vacancies or set application deadlines. You will find links to the different schools on the Helmholtz Association website.

.....  
[www.helmholtz.de/phd](http://www.helmholtz.de/phd)





## Leibniz Graduate Schools

### REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are expected to have – or to receive within the next six months – an excellent university degree comparable to a German Master's degree in an appropriate subject for the desired graduate school.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

These graduate schools offer outstanding PhD students the opportunity to train in an excellent research environment (broad research area, institutions with international reputations). They provide ideal conditions for completing a PhD in a structured doctoral programme that can take place either at the Leibniz institution or a partner university. Postdocs/junior researchers receive strong support from Leibniz researchers and university professors in small groups and have access to international networks and conferences.

### SUPPORT

Scholarships or work contracts; funding for consumables and travel allowances.

### DURATION

Scholarship for a maximum of 3 years.

### APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted directly to the relevant institute.





# Individual Doctoral Projects at Max Planck Institutes



## REQUIREMENTS

As a rule, candidates are expected to have an outstanding university degree comparable to a German Master's degree in an appropriate subject for the advertised PhD research or for a relevant PhD research proposal for the respective research project as well as previous research experience. English language skills are usually required.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Highly qualified PhD students receive the opportunity to complete PhD projects within the scope of research work conducted at a Max Planck Institute.

## SUPPORT

Funding is based on qualification level and family status, grants and work contracts. The basic PhD fellowship is 1,365 euros per month (plus health insurance allowance, material expenses allowance, children's allowance and/or recruitment bonus). The support contract equal to 50 per cent of payment group 13 of the Collective Wage Agreement for Government Service Workers is approx. 1,240 euros per month (net) plus recruitment bonus.

## DURATION

3 years.

## APPLICATION

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



.....  
[www.mpg.de/institutes](http://www.mpg.de/institutes),  
[www.mpg.de/jobboard](http://www.mpg.de/jobboard),  
<http://twitter.com/maxplanckpress>, [www.facebook.com/maxplancksociety](http://www.facebook.com/maxplancksociety)



# International Max Planck Research Schools

## REQUIREMENTS

As a rule, candidates are expected to have an outstanding university degree comparable to a German Master's degree in an appropriate subject for the desired research institute. Relevant research experience is useful. Fluency in English is essential. Applicants should have a genuine interest in and curiosity about the natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences or humanities.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRSs) offer PhD students the opportunity to complete a doctorate in structured programmes that provide excellent research conditions. IMPRSs are jointly managed by Max Planck Institutes and universities, whereby IMPRS students have the choice of receiving their doctorates either from a German university or their home university.

## SUPPORT

Funding is based on qualification level and family status, grants and work contracts. The basic PhD fellowship is 1,365 euros per month (plus health insurance allowance, material expenses allowance, children's allowance and/or recruitment bonus). The support contract equal to 50 per cent of payment group 13 of the Collective Wage Agreement for Government Service Workers is approx. 1,240 euros per month (net) plus recruitment bonus.

## DURATION

3 years.

## APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted to the respective IMPRS. Vacancies and application deadlines are advertised on the institutes' websites. You will find links to the individual IMPRSs on the Max Planck Society website.



# Green Talents

## REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be currently enrolled in a Master's or PhD programme or already hold a postgraduate degree with significantly above-average grades.

Their work must be related to innovative green solutions from an interdisciplinary point of view. Furthermore, an excellent command of the English language is required. Non-German citizenship and residence outside Germany as well as a maximum age of 32 years (at the time of application) are additional prerequisites.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Every year Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) invites young researchers from all over the world to take part in "Green Talents – The International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable Development". The winners are selected for their creative and intelligent solutions to the pressing questions of our time. With this programme the BMBF is seeking to intensify global exchange

between young researchers in the field of environmental and sustainability research.

## SUPPORT

The prize winners are invited to a science forum that takes them on a journey to leading German centres of environmental and sustainability research. In addition, they have the opportunity to return for a BMBF-funded research stay.

## DURATION

The competition invites young scientists to participate in a ten-day science forum in Germany. Additionally, the Green Talents receive the unique opportunity to complete a research stay of up to three months at an institution of their choice during the year following the forum.

## APPLICATION

Detailed information and a link to the online application tool are available on the Green Talents website.

.....  
[www.greentalents.de](http://www.greentalents.de)





PhD Students  
Postdocs/Junior Researchers

# Research Grants for Doctoral Candidates and Young Academics and Scientists

## REQUIREMENTS

Very highly qualified university graduates can apply for a DAAD Research Grant. In addition to this, the most important selection criterion is 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.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

These research grants are primarily for PhD students. They offer the opportunity to realise a research or training project at a state or state-recognised German university or non-university research institution.

## SUPPORT

750 to 1,000 euros per month  
(depending on qualification level)  
and additional allowances.

## DURATION

The duration of funding is determined by the grant commission during the selection process. Generally it is 1 to 10 months if the doctorate is completed in a foreign country and up to 3 years for a full doctoral programme in Germany (full doctorate only for some countries, please check [www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de) for more specific information).

## APPLICATION

The application details vary from country to country. For country-specific information on dates and deadlines please check the programme website.

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[www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de)





PhD Students  
Postdocs/Junior Researchers



## Clusters of Excellence

### REQUIREMENTS

As a rule, Clusters of Excellence (Exzellenzcluster) expect candidates to have an outstanding degree in a relevant subject. They should also be highly motivated and fluent in the English language.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Clusters of Excellence are established within the framework of the German Excellence Initiative. The Excellence Initiative aims to promote top-level research and to improve the quality of German universities and research institutions in general. Clusters of Excellence enable German university locations to establish internationally visible, competitive research and training facilities, thereby enhancing scientific networking and cooperation among the participating institu-

tions. They create excellent training and career conditions for early career researchers. The DFG currently supports 43 Clusters of Excellence.

### SUPPORT

Doctoral and postdoctoral positions as advertised in the job offers, e.g. on the website of the Cluster of Excellence.

### DURATION

Generally 3 years for doctoral positions, otherwise dependent on the position.

### APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the coordinator of the Cluster of Excellence of your choice. An up-to-date list of Clusters of Excellence is available on the DFG website.

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[www.dfg.de/en/excellence-initiative/exc](http://www.dfg.de/en/excellence-initiative/exc)







PhD Students  
Postdocs/Junior Researchers



## Collaborative Research Centres

### REQUIREMENTS

As a rule, Collaborative Research Centres (Sonderforschungsbereiche) expect candidates to have an outstanding degree in a relevant subject. They should also be highly motivated and fluent in the English language.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Collaborative Research Centres (CRCs) are established at universities for a period of up to 12 years and enable researchers to pursue an outstanding research programme, crossing the boundaries of disciplines, institutes, departments and faculties. The DFG currently supports more than 230 Collaborative

Research Centres. Doctoral and postdoctoral researchers achieve additional qualifications by working in CRC projects. Highly qualified and renowned postdoctoral researchers can also assume project leadership within a CRC.

### SUPPORT

Doctoral and postdoctoral positions as advertised in job offers, e.g. on the CRC's website.

### DURATION

Generally 3 years for doctoral positions, otherwise dependent on the position.

### APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the coordinator of the Collaborative Research Centre of your choice. An up-to-date list of Collaborative Research Centres is available on the DFG website.



.....  
[www.dfg.de/sfb/en](http://www.dfg.de/sfb/en)



PhD Students  
Postdocs/Junior Researchers



## Graduate Schools

### REQUIREMENTS

As a rule, Graduate Schools (Graduiertenschulen) expect candidates to have an outstanding degree in a relevant subject. They should also be highly motivated and fluent in the English language.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Graduate Schools are established within the framework of the German Excellence Initiative. The Excellence Initiative aims to promote top-level research and to improve the quality of German universities and research institutions in general. Graduate Schools within this framework offer training to outstanding PhD students in an excellent research environment (broad scientific area, institution with international reputation) and enable them to become active members of their academic and social communities. The DFG now supports 45 Graduate Schools.

### SUPPORT

Research positions and scholarships, funding for consumables and travel allowances.

### DURATION

Generally 3 to 4 years for PhD positions, otherwise dependent on the position.

### APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the coordinator of the Graduate School of your choice. You will find an up-to-date list of Graduate Schools on the DFG website.

.....  
[www.dfg.de/en/excellence-initiative/gsc](http://www.dfg.de/en/excellence-initiative/gsc)





PhD Students  
Postdocs/Junior Researchers



## Research Training Groups

### REQUIREMENTS

As a rule, Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs) expect candidates to have an outstanding degree in a relevant subject. They should also be highly motivated and fluent in the English language.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Research Training Groups are set up by universities and pursue a focused research programme. PhD students engage in independent research activities. Additional qualification programmes strengthen their expertise for the job market in research and higher education. The DFG now supports more than 200 Research Training Groups. Another variant: International Research Training Groups (joint research training programmes with a partner institution abroad).

### SUPPORT

Research Training Groups offer funding to PhD students, postdocs/junior researchers, visiting researchers and research students and cover expenses for travel, workshops, small equipment, consumables, coordination, etc.

### DURATION

Generally 3 years for doctoral positions, otherwise depending on the position.

### APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the coordinator of the Research Training Group of your choice. You will find an up-to-date list of Research Training Groups on the DFG website.

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[www.dfg.de/gk/en](http://www.dfg.de/gk/en)



DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

PhD Students  
Postdocs/Junior Researchers  
Senior Researchers

## Re-invitation Programme for Former Scholarship Holders

### REQUIREMENTS

This programme is aimed at former recipients of DAAD research or study scholarships with a duration of more than 6 months or former GDR scholarship holders who studied for at least 1 year in Germany. Applicants must have returned to their home countries at least 3 years ago. The most important selection criterion is a convincing and well-planned research or working project for the stay in Germany, which has been agreed in terms of content and schedule with the supervising host in Germany.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Funding is provided for research and work projects at a state-run or state-recognised higher education institution or non-university research institute. Former scholarship holders working outside the academic sector can also apply for a work stay at

another institution in the fields of business, industry, administration, culture or the media.

### SUPPORT

In addition to a monthly scholarship payment that is dependent on academic status (2,000 to 2,300 euros), the DAAD generally pays a travel expense allowance, unless these costs are borne by the home country or another institution.

### DURATION

1 to 3 months.

### APPLICATION

Application details vary from country to country. For country-specific information on dates and deadlines please check the programme website.



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[www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de)



**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

PhD Students  
Postdocs/Junior Researchers  
Senior Researchers



# Research Fellowships in Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research

## REQUIREMENTS

As a rule, candidates are expected to have a very good university degree in a relevant subject and to be fluent in the English language. The specific requirements can be found in the respective advertisements.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Outstanding scientists and researchers receive the opportunity to conduct special research at the institutes of the German Aerospace Center (DLR). Fellowships are defined and awarded on an individual basis.

## SUPPORT

PhD students: 1,365 euros per month with possible additional flat-rate travel allowance, health insurance, family allowances and an additional monthly allowance for materials of 102 euros; postdocs/junior researchers: 2,000 euros per month; senior researchers: 2,300 euros per month.

## DURATION

36 months for PhD students; 6 to 24 months for postdocs/junior researchers; 1 to 3 months for senior researchers.

## APPLICATION

Please visit the DAAD and DLR webpage at [www.daad.de/dlr](http://www.daad.de/dlr) to view currently available fellowships. Application deadlines are specified under "Current Offers".



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[www.daad.de/dlr](http://www.daad.de/dlr)



PhD Students  
Postdocs/Junior Researchers  
Senior Researchers



# Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates

## REQUIREMENTS

The required qualifications depend on programme and project. Scholarships can also be awarded to researchers and university teachers from European and non-European countries. Details and application requirements can be found in the respective project description.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Erasmus Mundus has funded international courses at master and doctoral level as well as scholarships to participate in them. However, this generation of the Erasmus Mundus Programme came to an end in 2013. From 2014, new doctoral programmes are selected under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, which form part of the EU's Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation. These new programmes will also offer additional doctoral scholarships. Ongoing projects will continue under the Erasmus Mundus name.

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[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus\\_mundus](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus)

## SUPPORT

The European Commission provides funding for scholarships for the selected Joint Doctoral Programmes. Supported doctoral candidates receive a contract of employment with a monthly gross salary of 2,800 euros and additional allowances.

## DURATION

Action 1 awards scholarships for 3-year EMJD programmes.

## APPLICATION

Candidates should submit their applications directly to the selected Erasmus Mundus master and doctoral programmes. The available programmes are listed on the website.





PhD Students  
Postdocs/Junior Researchers  
Senior Researchers



## Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Fellowship (EF)

### REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must have completed a doctorate or have at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience after obtaining a degree that entitles the holder to embark on a doctorate. The programme is aimed at researchers of all nationalities who want to carry out research in an EU member state (MS) or an associated country (AC).

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The fellowship funds a research project at a research institution in Germany (or another MS/AC) with the goal of supporting experienced researchers to enhance their qualifications and diversify their specialist competences.

### SUPPORT

The researcher is supported with a basic monthly salary, a mobility allowance and additional payments for research materials. Host institutions receive a grant for indirect costs.

### DURATION

Financial support is provided for 12 to 24 months (full-time equivalent).

### APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted jointly with a host institution online to the European Commission via the Participant Portal using the electronic SEP system (Submission & Evaluation in the Participant Portal).



[www.nks-mobilitaet.de/individual-fellowships](http://www.nks-mobilitaet.de/individual-fellowships) (in German only)

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon2020>

> Horizon 2020 Programme > Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions





# Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers

## REQUIREMENTS

Applications are accepted from highly qualified researchers in all disciplines from developing and emerging countries (excluding the People's Republic of China and India) who completed their doctorates less than 4 years ago. Further requirements include academic publications in journals or publishing houses that are subject to peer review according to international standards, confirmation that research facilities are available, a mentoring agreement and a detailed expert's statement by an academic host at a research institution in Germany. The research proposal must address issues of significant relevance to the future development of the country of origin.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The fellowship allows researchers to carry out a research project in Germany in cooperation with an academic host of their choice. The research project must deal with development-related issues.

## SUPPORT

Research fellowship (2,650 euros per month), language fellowship, travel expenses, family allowances, integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship, allowance for research costs (for host institution).

## DURATION

6 to 24 months.

## APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted at any time.



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[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html)





# Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers

## REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are expected, among other things, to have completed a doctorate or a comparable academic degree less than four years before the submission of the application. Additional requirements include academic publications in journals or publishing houses that are subject to peer review according to international standards, confirmation that research facilities are available, a mentoring agreement and a detailed expert's statement by an academic host at a research institution in Germany.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

This fellowship allows researchers to carry out their own research project in cooperation with an academic host of their choice at a research institute in Germany.

## SUPPORT

Research fellowship (2,650 euros per month), language fellowship, travel expenses, family allowances, integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship, allowance for research costs (for host institution).

## DURATION

6 to 24 months.

## APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted at any time.





## Sofja Kovalevskaja Award

### REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are expected to hold a doctorate or a comparable academic degree that was completed with distinction less than 6 years ago. The award is open to all disciplines. Equally important are cutting-edge academic achievements documented by a comprehensive list of academic publications for internationally reviewed journals and publishing houses.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The award allows researchers to establish their own working groups and spend 5 years working on a high-profile, innovative research project of their choice at research institutions in Germany.

### SUPPORT

Award: up to 1.65 million euros. Humboldt Foundation hallmarks: integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship.

### DURATION

5 years.

### APPLICATION

Candidates must apply jointly with their host institution.



[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html)



Postdocs/Junior Researchers

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

Leibniz  
Leibniz Association



## Leibniz-DAAD Research Fellowships

### REQUIREMENTS

In particular, the prerequisites for a successful application include an effective doctoral career as well as an outstanding international list of publications. It is crucial that the research project proposal matches the selected Leibniz Institute. The applicant's doctorate must have been completed less than 2 years ago.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Leibniz-DAAD Research Fellowship Programme is jointly funded by the Leibniz Association and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The fellowships offer out-

standing, recently qualified foreign postdocs/junior researchers the opportunity to conduct special research at one of the institutes of the Leibniz Association in Germany.

### SUPPORT

The grant includes a monthly sum of 2,000 euros, a research allowance of 460 euros per annum, health, accident and personal/private liability insurance in Germany and a 2-month German language course in Germany (if desired).

### DURATION

12 months.

### APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted to the DAAD.



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[www.daad.de/leibniz](http://www.daad.de/leibniz)



## Emmy Noether Programme

### REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are expected to have an excellent research project and at least 2 years and up to a maximum of 4 years (medical researchers: up to 6 years) of postdoctoral experience including substantial international research experience; foreign applicants are eligible if they intend to continue their research career in Germany following completion at the end of the funding period.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

This programme enables outstanding postdocs/junior researchers to 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.

### SUPPORT

Funding for an independent junior research group; includes supervisory salary and covers expenses for staff and consumables necessary to complete the project during the funding period.

### DURATION

Generally 5 years (maximum of 6 years).

### APPLICATION

Proposals can be submitted at any time.



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[www.dfg.de/emmy\\_noether/en](http://www.dfg.de/emmy_noether/en)



## ERC Consolidator Grants

### REQUIREMENTS

This grant scheme provides support for excellent young researchers for 7–12 years (in exceptional cases the time frame can be extended) after completion of their PhD thesis. Candidates are expected to have a promising academic track record and an excellent research proposal. The research project must be carried out at a research institution in Europe (European Union or associated country). Applicants can be of any nationality and age.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

At the European level the European Research Council (ERC) supports research projects by highly qualified postdoctoral researchers with the goal of fostering the recipient's research independence through the development or consolidation of a research team. All research

disciplines are supported. Interdisciplinary projects are highly encouraged.

### SUPPORT

Research projects can receive up to 2 million euros (in exceptional cases up to 2.75 million euros) in funding.

### DURATION

Up to 5 years.

### APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted in combination with and in the name of the host institution. ERC Consolidator Grants are advertised once a year. Application deadlines are published on the website.



## ERC Starting Grants

### REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are expected to have between 2 and 7 years (in exceptional cases the time frame can be extended) of research experience after completion of their PhD thesis, a promising academic track record and an excellent research proposal. Applicants can be of any nationality and age. The research project must be carried out at a research institution in Europe (European Union or associated country).

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

At the European level the European Research Council (ERC) supports research projects by highly qualified postdoctoral researchers with the goal of fostering the recipient's research independence through the development or consolidation of a research team. All research disciplines are supported. Interdisciplinary projects are highly encouraged.

### SUPPORT

Research projects can receive up to 1.5 million euros (in exceptional cases up to 2 million euros) in funding.

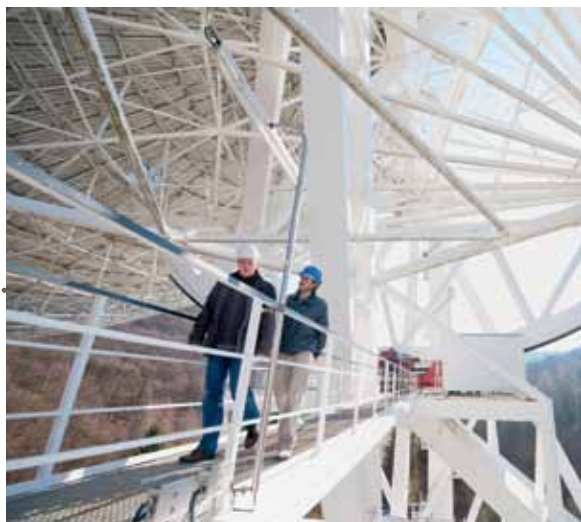
### DURATION

Up to 5 years.

### APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted in combination with and in the name of the host institution. ERC Starting Grants are advertised once a year. Application deadlines are published on the website.

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[www.erc-germany.de](http://www.erc-germany.de)





## Helmholtz Postdoc Programme

### REQUIREMENTS

This programme is open to young scientists who have either gained their doctoral qualification in Germany or abroad within the past year (up to two years with parental leave) or are about to complete their degree. Although the most important selection criterion is the academic quality of the candidate's doctoral thesis, outstanding grades and publications are also of relevance to the selection process, as are any prizes or awards candidates may have won.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Talented young researchers can work independently at Helmholtz on a research topic of their choice and establish themselves in their respective field. To promote equal opportunities, at least half of the positions in the programme are granted to women.

### SUPPORT

Selected candidates will receive 100,000 euros annually. They can use the grants to pay their own salary and that of a technical assistant, if required. In addition, the grants provide the flexibility and means to cover travel expenses arising from a (mandatory) stay abroad during the grant period.

### DURATION

Up to 3 years.

### APPLICATION

Candidates must independently find Helmholtz researchers who would be willing to accept them at their institution for the duration of the programme. Applicants are selected by a committee of distinguished experts. As a rule, calls for applications are advertised in spring.



# Helmholtz Young Investigators Groups

## REQUIREMENTS

The most important selection criterion is the academic excellence of the applicant, whose doctorate should have been completed between 2 and 6 years ago (periods of childcare are taken into account).

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The best postdocs/junior researchers receive excellent working conditions in a research oriented environment. Researchers are granted independence early on with secure career prospects (“tenure track”) based on proven research achievement. Leaders of Investigators Groups are expected to work closely with university partners. They have the opportunity to gain teaching experience and the qualifications for a career in higher education.

## SUPPORT

Young Investigators Groups are awarded a minimum of 250,000 euros a year, which includes the salary of the group leader (generally at level E 14/15 TVöD or BAT 1b/1a on the relevant pay scale), salaries of scientific or technical staff (3 on average) and expenses for materials, supplies and investments.

## DURATION

5 to 6 years with an evaluation after 3 to 4 years.

## APPLICATION

Applicants must apply directly to the respective Helmholtz Centre by the end of March. The centres nominate their candidates and request them to submit a full application.







## Head of a Max Planck Research Group at a Max Planck Institute

### REQUIREMENTS

The programme is aimed at young, highly qualified scientists and researchers who have ideally already had one to two postdoctoral positions and are in a position to realise an independent research project. Above all, the programme is looking for postdocs/junior researchers with viable and innovative ideas.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Max Planck Society offers gifted young scientists and researchers the chance to conduct independent scientific work in Max Planck Research Groups. Candidates receive their own fixed budget to run their research programme/research group at a Max Planck Institute.

### SUPPORT

Personal budget to cover costs of material and human resources, funding for key equipment, average salary group W2 based on the German Federal Salary Scale.

### DURATION

5 years (two 2-year extensions possible).

### APPLICATION

Positions at specific institutes are advertised throughout the year. Central advertisements are normally published once a year in autumn. In addition, positions are advertised in specialist journals and on their websites.





# Max Planck Grants for Advanced Postdoctoral Training

## REQUIREMENTS

As a rule, candidates are expected to have an outstanding doctorate in a relevant field and at least two years of research experience.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Postdocs/junior researchers receive the opportunity to gain additional knowledge and skills at a Max Planck Institute on the basis of their prior professional qualifications.

## SUPPORT

Funding is based on qualification or age and family status, grants and work contracts; funding ranges from 2,100 to 2,600 euros per month for foreign postdocs/junior researchers (plus health insurance allowance, married allowance). The work contract is based on payment group 13/14 of the Collective Wage Agreement for Government Service Workers.

## DURATION

Grant or temporary appointment contracts for between two and seven years.

## APPLICATION

Positions are advertised as required in specialist journals (also in international publications), the Internet job exchange of the Max Planck Society or on the website of the respective institute. It is also possible to contact the respective MPI directly.



**DAAD**Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
German Academic Exchange ServicePostdocs/Junior Researchers  
Senior Researchers

## Bilateral Exchange of Academics

### REQUIREMENTS

Invitations can be issued to foreign researchers who already hold a doctorate and come from countries with which an exchange of researchers is envisaged within the framework of cultural exchange programmes or other bilateral agreements. Depending on the programme involved, the researcher exchange can be limited to specific institutions and/or disciplines.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The programme supports research and study visits within the framework of the bilateral exchange of scientists and scholars. You can determine whether the programme is offered for your country/discipline at [www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de).

### SUPPORT

The costs of the stay are paid by the DAAD, but travel expenses must be borne by the partner institution in the country of origin.

### DURATION

2 weeks to 3 months.

### APPLICATION

The application details vary from country to country. For country-specific information on dates and deadlines please check the programme website.



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[www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de)

Postdocs/Junior Researchers  
Senior Researchers

## Research Stays for University Academics and Scientists

### REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must work in a higher education institution or research institute in their home country. The most important selection criterion, alongside the applicant's previous research track record, is a convincing and well-planned research project that has been agreed with the prospective German host institute.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Foreign researchers at universities or research institutions receive the opportunity to carry out a research project at a state-run or state-recognised higher education institution or non-university research institute.

### SUPPORT

The size of the monthly scholarship is dependent on academic status (2,000 to 2,300 euros), and generally includes a travel allowance.

### DURATION

1 to 3 months.

### APPLICATION

The application details vary from country to country. For country-specific information on dates and deadlines please check the programme website.



[www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de)





Postdocs/Junior Researchers  
Senior Researchers

DFG

## Grants to Support the Initiation of International Collaboration

### REQUIREMENTS

Researchers who hold a doctorate and who are working at a German research institution can submit an application for support for a bilateral collaboration. It should 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.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

These grants support international collaboration by enabling eligible German and foreign researchers and academics to plan partner visits and/or joint workshops with their partners. Support is provided for the early stages of planning, developing and coordinating joint research cooperation between international partners. Funding can be provided for visits to Germany and/or to the partner institute abroad for periods of up to 3 months and joint workshops either in Germany or in the partner country.

### SUPPORT

Funding covers travel expenses, maintenance expenses and event costs. Certain costs can be co-financed by a foreign partner organisation if a corresponding agreement exists.

### DURATION

Maximum of 3 months for research visits; all activities, such as joint workshops, must take place within 12 months.

### APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted at any time by researchers working in the German research system.

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[www.dfg.de/en/bilateral\\_cooperation](http://www.dfg.de/en/bilateral_cooperation)





Postdocs/Junior Researchers  
Senior Researchers



# Mercator Fellowship

## REQUIREMENTS

Applications for a Mercator Fellowship will only be accepted for researchers working at a German research institution. The application will be within the framework of a larger comprehensive application in one of the DFG's programmes (please consult DFG guidelines). Its purpose is to invite distinguished researchers who will contribute to attaining the project's objective.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Mercator Fellowship facilitates long-term project-based cooperation between German and international researchers. The Mercator Fellow will spend a period of time at a German research institution working on a collaborative project and will remain closely associated with the team members and the project once the research stay has ended.

## SUPPORT

Fellows can receive a salary according to their qualification. Additionally, they will receive an allowance to cover travel expenses.

## DURATION

The length of the research stay is not specified. Depending on the project's needs and the availability of the Mercator Fellow, either one extended stay, e.g. a semester or a year, or several shorter stays are possible.

## APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted at any time by a researcher or project coordinator in Germany. Please consult the availability of this module in the information sections on respective DFG programmes such as Research Grants, Research Training Groups, Collaborative Research Centres and others. Kindly note that individual applications by prospective Mercator Fellows are not possible.

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[www.dfg.de/en/mercator](http://www.dfg.de/en/mercator)



Postdocs/Junior Researchers  
Senior Researchers

DFG



## Research Grants

### REQUIREMENTS

The research project is expected to be of a high academic quality and originality at an international level. Proposals can be submitted by qualified researchers (as a rule, those holding a PhD) in all disciplines. They 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.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The grant enables scientists and scholars to realise a research project on a defined subject within a limited period of time.

### SUPPORT

As part of the research grant proposal, one or more of the following

modules can be submitted: Basic Module, Temporary Positions for Principal Investigators, Mercator Fellows (for a full list of available modules, consult the DFG website). Funding depends on the specific proposal modules.

### DURATION

The duration of funding is based on individual project requirements (as a rule, up to 3 years).

### APPLICATION

Proposals require a statement from the prospective German host institution. First proposal: no submission deadlines; proposal for extension: at least 6 months before approved funds have been exhausted.



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[www.dfg.de/research\\_grants](http://www.dfg.de/research_grants)



Postdocs/Junior Researchers  
Senior Researchers



## Fraunhofer Attract

### REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are expected to be highly qualified, preferably with postdoctoral experience, an outstanding scientific track record and a promising idea for industrial application. The programme is aimed at scientists whose ideas and competencies match or enhance the business and technology fields of a specific Fraunhofer Institute.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

This support programme offers substantial funding, both budgetary and recruiting responsibility, research in close cooperation with industry at state-of-the-art Fraunhofer laboratories and ideal prospects in research and industry.

### SUPPORT

500,000 euros per year for 5 years (total of 2.5 million euros) for research staff and equipment.

### DURATION

5 years for the establishment of an independent group within a Fraunhofer Institute; if successful, continuation as self-sustaining group within Fraunhofer.

### APPLICATION

Every year 2 calls for proposals are organised. Submissions are only possible with close cooperation between the Fraunhofer Institute and the scientist.



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Overview of all Fraunhofer Institutes:

[www.fraunhofer.de/en/institutes-research-establishments.html](http://www.fraunhofer.de/en/institutes-research-establishments.html)

More information: [www.fraunhofer.de/en/jobs-career/fraunhofer-attract.html](http://www.fraunhofer.de/en/jobs-career/fraunhofer-attract.html)





Senior Researchers



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation



## Alexander von Humboldt Professorship

### REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must be internationally recognised as leaders in their research field. Foreign researchers in all disciplines are eligible for nomination if they can be expected to contribute to enhancing Germany's long-term international research competitiveness as a result of the award.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Award winners receive the opportunity to carry out long-term and groundbreaking research in Germany. German universities – also in cooperation with non-university research institutions – are able to establish or strengthen internationally visible key research areas in order to enhance their profile.

### SUPPORT

5 million euros for researchers in experimental disciplines, 3.5 million euros for researchers in theoretical disciplines. Universities agree to integrate the researchers and their team in their strategic planning, offering the researchers long-term prospects in Germany.

### DURATION

Initial sponsorship: 5 years.

### APPLICATION

Nominations can only be made by German universities. Non-university research institutions may also submit joint nominations with German universities. There are 2 selection rounds per year.

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[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html)





Senior Researchers



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## Anneliese Maier Research Award

### REQUIREMENTS

Nominations for the award can be submitted on behalf of outstanding researchers in the humanities and social sciences whose academic achievement is internationally recognised. The research collaboration with fellow specialists in Germany should make a lasting contribution to the further internationalisation of the humanities and social sciences in Germany.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Award winners engage in their choice of research cooperation with fellow specialists in Germany. The Humboldt Foundation confers up to eight Anneliese Maier Research Awards a year.

### SUPPORT

An award is worth 250,000 euros.

### DURATION

Up to five years.

### APPLICATION

Nominations can be submitted by established researchers in Germany at any time. Direct applications are not accepted.

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[www.humboldt-foundation.de/  
web/programmes.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html)





Senior Researchers



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# Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award

## REQUIREMENTS

The nominee must be recognised internationally as an outstanding researcher in his/her field (e.g. awards, positive responses to publications, etc.). It is also expected that he/she will continue to produce cutting-edge achievements that will have a seminal influence on the discipline. The nominee's doctorate must have been completed less than 18 years prior to nomination.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Award winners are honoured for their outstanding research record and invited to spend a period of 6 to 12 months cooperating on a long-term research project with fellow experts at a research institute in Germany. The stay can be divided into blocks.

## SUPPORT

Award: 45,000 euros; Humboldt Foundation hallmarks: integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship.

## DURATION

Up to 12-month research stay in Germany.

## APPLICATION

Nominations can be submitted by established researchers in Germany at any time. Direct applications are not accepted.



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[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html)



Senior Researchers



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## Georg Forster Research Award

### REQUIREMENTS

Awards are made to outstandingly qualified researchers from developing and emerging countries (excluding the People's Republic of China and India) whose development-related work is internationally visible and has had a lasting impact on their respective discipline. Their research must be expected to continue to contribute to finding approaches or advancing solutions to the specific challenges of emerging or developing countries. The award is open to researchers in all disciplines.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Award winners are invited to cooperate on a long-term research project with fellow experts at a research institute in Germany.

### SUPPORT

Award: 60,000 euros; Humboldt Foundation hallmarks: integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship. To support the collaboration, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation can grant additional funding of up to 25,000 euros.

### DURATION

Up to 12-month research stay in Germany. The stay can be divided into blocks.

### APPLICATION

Nominations can be submitted by established researchers in Germany at any time. Direct applications are not accepted.



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[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html)



Senior Researchers



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

# Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers

## REQUIREMENTS

Applications can be submitted by highly qualified researchers in all disciplines from developing and emerging countries who completed their doctorates less than 12 years ago. They should already have their own research profile and be working at least at the level of Assistant Professor or Junior Research Group Leader or have several years of independent research experience. Further requirements include confirmation that research facilities are available, a mentoring agreement and a detailed expert's statement by an academic host at a research institution in Germany.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The fellowship enables researchers to carry out a research project in Germany in cooperation with an academic host of their choice. The research project must deal with development-related issues.

## SUPPORT

Research fellowship (3,150 euros per month), language fellowship, travel expenses, family allowances, integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship, allowance for research costs (for host institution).

## DURATION

6 to 18 months, can be divided up into a maximum of 3 blocks within three years.

## APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted at any time.



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[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html)



Senior Researchers



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

# Humboldt Research Award

## REQUIREMENTS

The nominee must be recognised internationally as an outstandingly qualified researcher (e.g. awards, positive responses to publications, etc.). It is also expected that he/she will continue to produce cutting-edge achievements in the future. The award is granted in recognition of the entire previous achievements of a researcher whose fundamental discoveries, insights or new theories have had a significant impact on his/her discipline.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Award winners are invited to cooperate on a long-term research project with fellow experts at a research institute in Germany.

## SUPPORT

Award: 60,000 euros; Humboldt Foundation hallmarks: integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship.

## DURATION

Up to 12-month research stay in Germany. The stay can be divided into blocks.

## APPLICATION

Nominations can be submitted by established researchers in Germany at any time. Direct applications are not accepted.

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[www.humboldt-foundation.de/  
web/programmes.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html)





Senior Researchers



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Stiftung/Foundation

# Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers



## REQUIREMENTS

Applications can be submitted by highly qualified foreign researchers in all disciplines who completed their doctorate less than 12 years ago, already have their own research profile and are working at least at the level of Assistant Professor or Junior Research Group Leader or have several years of independent research experience. Further requirements include confirmation that research facilities are available, a mentoring agreement and a detailed expert's statement by an academic host at a research institution in Germany.

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The fellowship enables researchers to carry out their own research project in cooperation with an academic host of their choice at a research institute in Germany.

## SUPPORT

Research fellowship (3,150 euros per month), language fellowship, travel expenses, family allowances, integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship, allowance for research costs (for host institution).

## DURATION

6 to 18 months, can be divided into a maximum of 3 blocks within three years.

## APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted at any time.



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[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html)



Senior Researchers



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Stiftung/Foundation



## Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award

### REQUIREMENTS

The nominee must be recognised internationally as an outstanding researcher in his/her field of applied research (e.g. awards, positive responses to publications, etc.).

It is also expected that he/she will continue to produce cutting-edge achievements that will have a seminal influence on the respective discipline. The nominee's doctorate should have been completed less than 18 years prior to nomination and the centre of his/her life/work must be outside Europe.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Award winners are invited to work closely with a partner at one of the Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany for up to 12 months. They become part of a global network of researchers maintained by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

### SUPPORT

Award: 45,000 euros; Humboldt Foundation hallmarks: integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship.

### DURATION

Maximum of 12 months.

### APPLICATION

Nominations must be submitted by the heads of institutes or senior researchers at institutes belonging to the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. Direct applications are not accepted.



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[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html)





Senior Researchers

DFG

## Heisenberg Programme: Fellowship/Professorship

### REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must have completed the habilitation process or hold a comparable qualification that entitles the holder to a professorship. The research project must be of high academic quality and originality at an international level and the candidate is expected to have the potential to gain further qualifications as a university teacher. Applicants for a Heisenberg professorship must find a German university that intends to establish a new professorship and agrees to continue funding the position after DFG funding expires.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Heisenberg Programme gives excellent researchers the opportunity to prepare for a leading position in science and research and to spend time working on an advanced research topic.

### SUPPORT

Fellowship: award, travel expenses and, if applicable, allowance for accommodation abroad, publication funding. The standard fellowship award is 4,450 euros per month. Professorship: salary based on pay scale for professors.

### DURATION

Maximum of 5 years.

### APPLICATION

Proposals can be submitted at any time. Proposals require a statement from the prospective host institution. For a professorship: the German university must agree to establish a professorship after funding expires.



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[www.dfg.de/heisenberg/en](http://www.dfg.de/heisenberg/en)



Senior Researchers



## ERC Advanced Grants

### REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are expected to be leaders in their respective research field and be able to demonstrate significant research achievements in the past ten years. Applicants can be of any nationality. The research project must be carried out at a research institution in Europe (European Union or associated country).

### DURATION

Up to 5 years.

### APPLICATION

Experienced researchers of all nationalities are entitled to submit applications with the host institution. Advanced Grants are advertised once a year. Application deadlines are published on the website.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The ERC funds research projects at the frontiers of knowledge in all disciplines. Interdisciplinary projects are highly encouraged.

### SUPPORT

Research projects can receive funding of up to 2.5 million euros (in exceptional cases up to 3.5 million euros).



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[www.erc-germany.de](http://www.erc-germany.de)



Senior Researchers



## International Visiting Scholars at Leibniz Institutes

### REQUIREMENTS

Outstanding qualifications and acknowledged research experience are expected.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The programme enables senior researchers to pursue or complete research in the research environment of a Leibniz Institute. It promotes networking and strengthens cooperation between Leibniz Institutes and their international partners.

### SUPPORT

Monthly salary or fee (depending on the financial resources of the host institute).

### DURATION

Dependent on the host institute, visits can start at any time.

### APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted directly to the respective Leibniz Institute.



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[www.leibniz-association.eu](http://www.leibniz-association.eu)



Senior Researchers



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

## Foreign Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Institutes

### REQUIREMENTS

Outstanding qualifications and acknowledged research experience are expected.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

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

### SUPPORT

Individual grants and travel allowances.

### DURATION

Variable, visits can start at any time.

### APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted to the respective host institute.



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[www.mpg.de/institutes](http://www.mpg.de/institutes)



Notes:





# All Funding Programmes

(Listed by Funding Organisation)

## Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Humboldt Foundation)

Alexander von Humboldt Professorship .....	49
Anneliese Maier Research Award .....	50
Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award .....	56
Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award .....	51
Georg Forster Research Award .....	52
Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers .....	53
Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers .....	32
Humboldt Research Award .....	54
Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers .....	55
Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers .....	33
Sofja Kovalevskaja Award .....	34

## European Funding Programmes

Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates .....	30
ERC Advanced Grants .....	58
ERC Consolidator Grants .....	37
ERC Starting Grants .....	38
Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Fellowship (EF) .....	31

## Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft

Fraunhofer Attract .....	48
Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award .....	56
Individual Doctoral Projects at Fraunhofer Institutes .....	16

## German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Bilateral Exchange of Academics .....	43
Leibniz-DAAD Research Fellowships .....	35
Re-invitation Programme for Former Scholarship Holders .....	28
Research Fellowships in Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research (DLR, DAAD) .....	29
Research Grants for Doctoral Candidates and Young Academics and Scientists ..	23
Research Stays for University Academics and Scientists .....	44





## German Research Foundation (DFG)

Clusters of Excellence .....	24
Collaborative Research Centres .....	25
Emmy Noether Programme .....	36
Graduate Schools .....	26
Grants to Support the Initiation of International Collaboration .....	45
Heisenberg Programme: Fellowship/Professorship .....	57
Mercator Fellowship .....	46
Research Grants .....	47
Research Training Groups .....	27

## Helmholtz Association

Helmholtz Postdoc Programme .....	39
Helmholtz Young Investigators Groups .....	40
Individual PhD Thesis at Helmholtz Centres .....	17
International Helmholtz Research Schools and Graduate Schools .....	18

## Leibniz Association

International Visiting Scholars at Leibniz Institutes .....	59
Leibniz-DAAD Research Fellowships .....	35
Leibniz Graduate Schools .....	19

## Max Planck Society (MPG)

Foreign Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Institutes .....	60
Head of a Max Planck Research Group at a Max Planck Institute .....	41
Individual Doctoral Projects at Max Planck Institutes .....	20
International Max Planck Research Schools .....	21
Max Planck Grants for Advanced Postdoctoral Training .....	42

## The Project Management Agency at DLR

Green Talents .....	22
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## Useful Links

### Research in Germany

The Internet portal [www.research-in-germany.de](http://www.research-in-germany.de) 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.de/funding](http://www.research-in-germany.de/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](http://www.funding-guide.de)

### PhDGermany

This German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) database contains details of PhD programmes at German universities and research institutions that are designed especially for applicants from abroad.

[www.phdgermany.de](http://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 3,000 companies, foundations, business associations and individuals. This website provides a search engine for research grants and other funding opportunities offered by more than 300 foundations.

[www.stifterverband.info](http://www.stifterverband.info)

> Stiftungen & Stifter > Förderung (in German only)

## EURAXESS Germany Funding Database

The EURAXESS Germany funding database contains information on more than 100 German and EU funding programmes for foreign researchers. Most of the funding programmes presented on EURAXESS Germany are targeted at scientists and scholars at an advanced stage of their careers.

[www.euraxess.de/portal/funding\\_in.html](http://www.euraxess.de/portal/funding_in.html)

## 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](http://www.kowi.eu)



# About Research in Germany

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) launched the initiative to “Promote Innovation and Research in Germany” in 2006. Under the brand “Research in Germany – Land of Ideas”, various measures and events have been organised to present German innovation and research in key international markets on behalf of the BMBF. The initiative seeks to strengthen and expand R&D collaboration between Germany and international partners.

The following and many more Research in Germany publications are available at

[www.research-in-germany.de/downloads](http://www.research-in-germany.de/downloads)

- “The German Research Landscape – Who does research in Germany?”
- “FAQs – Doing a doctorate in Germany”
- “FAQs – Preparing a successful research stay in Germany”
- “Discover the Future of Research. Now. Germany – Europe’s leader in science”



We hope that our brochures will offer you guidance for your career in the German research sector. For more information about Research in Germany, please visit our website

[www.research-in-germany.de](http://www.research-in-germany.de)

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**Note:** Research in Germany places special emphasis on using language that treats women and men equally. The grammatical male form is occasionally used alone in this publication purely as a means of improving legibility. Naturally, these terms are meant in a gender-neutral way.

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Research in  
Germany



Land of Ideas

