

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

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Roman Herzog Research Fellowships

Programme for the sponsorship of young scholars from central and eastern Europe

Information Sheet

I. The programme

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) in Bonn and the non-profit Hertie Foundation (GHS) in Frankfurt-on-Main enable young highly qualified scientists and scholars from central and south-east Europe (including the Baltic States)* to carry out research projects of their own choice in Germany. The research fellowship programme, named after the former Federal German President, is open to candidates who hold doctorate degrees, can furnish proof of equivalent research achievements or are approaching their doctorate degrees and, in addition, have proven outstanding leadership qualities in research and teaching or through non-academic activities. Scientists and scholars from all disciplines may apply for the fellowship. Applications from the fields of law, economics and social sciences are particularly welcome.

The fellowship programme was jointly established at the initiative of the AvH and the GHS. It is financed by the non-profit Hertie Foundation and administered by the Humboldt Foundation. Twelve research fellowships are available annually.

Applications are assessed by specialized German scholars and decided by an independent selection committee. The criteria for assessment and decision are the quality and feasibility of proposed research projects, the candidate's internationally published work (including doctoral theses) and leadership qualities given by referees.

Research projects and academic hosts are selected by applicants themselves. Details of research projects and schedules must be agreed between applicants and academic hosts in Germany prior to submission of applications.

II. Value and duration of research fellowships

Monthly research fellowship rates range between EUR 1.600 and EUR 2.100 and are set by the selection committee.

Other expenses covered:

- research fellows' travel costs;
- family allowances: monthly grants amounting to EUR 260 (net) for spouses and EUR 50 (net) for each child accompanying research fellows to Germany for at least three months;
- grants toward the cost of medical insurance: research fellows and their spouses and children may receive monthly grants of EUR 50 per person during their stay in Germany;
- additional grants for German language courses of two to four months at language tuition institutes in Germany prior to the actual period of research. The selection committee may make participation in these courses obligatory (please take this into account when planning schedules).

Fellowships may be requested for periods of between 6 and 12 months. Extensions of up to six months may be granted.

III. Application requirements

Applications may be submitted by scientists and scholars who

1. are younger than 35 years (key date: receipt of complete application before reaching the age of 35, maternal leave will be taken into account with regard to the age limit);
2. hold doctorate degrees or furnish proof of equivalent research achievements (e.g. through publications in internationally recognized specialist journals) or are approaching their doctorate degrees;
3. can furnish proof of independent research work through recognized academic publications;
4. submit a statement confirming support by a scientist or scholar in Germany and a detailed research project discussed with the academic host but drawn up by applicants themselves;
5. can prove adequate language abilities:
applicants in humanities must possess sound German language abilities where these are required for the success of a project.
applicants in natural and engineering sciences must possess and provide proof of at least a good command of English (German or English language certificates required).

IV. Application procedure

Applications may be submitted to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at any time. The meetings of the selection committee usually take place in June and November. Applications should be received in full by the AvH three months prior to the selection date. A research period can probably commence one or two months later.

Application documents can be obtained from the AvH or via e-mail (herzog.select@avh.de) or Internet (<http://www.humboldt-foundation.de>).

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· Albania	· Estonia	· Macedonia	· Slovenia
· Bosnia-Herzegovina	· Hungary	· Poland	· the Slovak Republic
· Bulgaria	· Latvia	· Romania	· the Czech
· Croatia	· Lithuania	· Serbia and Montenegro	Republic