Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung / Foundation

Programme Information

German Chancellor Fellowships

for prospective leaders

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's German Chancellor Fellowship Programme is targeted at university graduates from the United States, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, Brazil and India who have an international outlook and initial leadership experience. It addresses prospective decision-makers, multipliers and thought leaders from a broad range of professional fields such as politics, public administration and business as well as society and culture. The fellowships give them the opportunity to spend a year in Germany networking with other prospective leaders from abroad, who are also sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation, and to explore new solutions to the global issues of our times. With this programme Germany once again presents itself as a destination of choice for intercultural dialogue and as a meeting place for the international leaders of tomorrow.

During their stay in Germany, the German Chancellor Fellows usually pursue research-based, self-developed projects in the areas mentioned above at host institutions. They are supervised by hosts in Germany who they select themselves and who have the necessary level of expertise to mentor the respective research topics. The projects should not only be of social significance, but should also have a long-term, publicly-visible impact. They should also be conducive to advancing fellows' career development. During their stay in Germany, fellows will be able to expand their specialist knowledge and gain new international experience whilst enhancing their intercultural skills and thus enabling them to develop into successful leaders.

After the fellowship has come to an end, they act as intermediaries between their own countries and Germany and continue to be part of the worldwide Humboldt Network in which the alumni of the German Chancellor Fellowship Programme foster particularly close contacts with one another. This has resulted in a steadily growing network of international decision-makers, multipliers and thought leaders.

This fellowship programme is under the patronage of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany and is financed by the Federal Foreign Office. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation grants up to 50 German Chancellor Fellowships every year – up to ten of which go to prospective leaders from each of the five countries named above.

Potential candidates, who are interested in studying or training in Germany, should apply for the programmes offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) or other funding organisations. Postdoctoral scientists and scholars planning an academic research project should apply for the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Humboldt Research Fellowship Programme.

Fellowship benefits

The fellowship grant amounts to 2,150 EUR, 2,450 EUR or 2,750 EUR per month, depending on the applicant's qualifications. The fellowship also includes a mobility allowance as well as a contribution to health and liability insurance.

The stay in Germany begins with a language scholarship for an obligatory two-month intensive language course which takes place during August and September; fellows, who already have a good, but improvable, knowledge of German, take part in a one-month language course; fellows with excellent German skills are not required to attend the intensive language course. The German Chancellor Fellowship is granted for twelve months and starts in October with a four-week introductory seminar in Bonn and Berlin. This provides varied insights into the social, political, economic and cultural life in Germany. It is followed by eleven months of individual project work starting in November.

During the spring, a two-week study tour of Germany takes place. Other events within the scope of the fellowship include the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's annual meeting with a reception held by the Federal President and a final meeting in Berlin which includes a reception at the Federal Chancellery. Fellowship extensions of up to three months are possible.

Additional benefits:

- **allowance for research costs** amounting to 500 EUR per month for the hosts in Germany
- **lump sum** for the fellow's travel to and from Germany if these costs are not borne by a third party
- **allowances for family members accompanying the fellow** to Germany for a minimum of three months (up to 326 EUR a month for marital partners and up to 234 EUR a month for each child)
- **German courses** in the fellow's own country prior to the stay in Germany as well as during the stay in Germany to intensify the knowledge of German acquired during the intensive language course
- **Europe allowance** for a stay of one to two months at an institute in Europe (not, however, in the fellow's own country) if such a stay is necessary to conduct the project in question
- **extensive alumni sponsorship** after the stay in Germany has been completed successfully, in particular, to promote networking with the collaborative partners in Germany during the alumni's entire professional careers

Application requirements

- the applicant must be a **national** of the United States, the Russian Federation, The People's Republic of China, Brazil or India
- **Bachelor's or equivalent academic degree** completed less than twelve years before the beginning of the fellowship (1 October of the year following application)
- initial proven **leadership experience**; applicants with a preponderantly academic background should have acquired initial leadership experience in addition to their own research activity
- **German** or **English language skills**
- a **letter of motivation** (approx. 2 pages)
- a **project plan** (approx. 3 pages); candidates must draw up their project plan independently and discuss it with their intended host prior to application
- a **detailed statement,** including **confirmation of supervision, by the host** in Germany
- **two references** by individuals qualified to comment on the candidate's professional, personal and/or academic background

Potential applicants who have been in Germany for more than six months immediately prior to the application deadline (15 September) may not apply.

Potential applicants who have already been sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation are not eligible to apply for one of the Foundation's other fellowships but should seek support for a further stay in Germany from the Foundation's Alumni Programme.

Selection criteria

Applicants are selected according to the following criteria:

- previous **career** and **leadership potential**
- significance of fellowship for further **career development**
- potential to **build bridges** between home country and Germany
- **international outlook** and future role as an **international leader**
- **existing knowledge** to help complete the project successfully
- **relevance** of the project for the dialogue of modern societies

Application and selection procedure

Applications should be completed online. The application deadline is 15 September of every year.

The completed application form, including the necessary additional documents, should be submitted online by the application deadline. Visit the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's website (http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/buka) for further information on the online application process and all necessary documents as well as access to the online application system. A confirmation of receipt will be issued immediately after the application has been submitted.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their documents are complete. It may not be possible to include incomplete applications in the selection procedure.

The host in Germany should send the confidential statement directly to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation by the application deadline at the latest.

The selection process consists of two steps. The most promising candidates are initially selected from all formally approved applications on the basis of the written documents, and invited to a selection meeting in Bonn. During an interview, the applicants present themselves and their projects to an independent selection committee which decides on how the fellowships should be allocated. A further selection tool involves a group discussion on an overarching topic of general interest. Additional information on the selection process can be found in the FAQ section on the Humboldt Foundation's website. The Humboldt Foundation will be pleased to answer any further questions about the German Chancellor Fellowship Programme by email (info@avh.de).

US candidates for the German Chancellor Fellowship Programme can also approach the office of the American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

American Friends of the
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
1101 17th Street NW, Suite 603
Washington, DC 20036

Tel: (202) 783-1907
Fax: (202) 783-1908
info@americanfriends-of-avh.org
www.americanfriends-of-avh.org

Hosts' statements and references should be sent directly to the Humboldt Foundation in Bonn and not to the office of the American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.