

# German Funding Programmes for Scientists and Researchers



Funding Opportunities for International Students, Graduates, PostDocs and Scientists offered by:

AN INITIATIVE OF THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research



**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



**DFG**

**Fraunhofer**

**International Bureau  
of the BMBF**

**HELMHOLTZ  
ASSOCIATION**

**Leibniz  
Association**

**Research in  
Germany**

**Land of Ideas**

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



# Research in Germany: Funding made easy!

Are you interested in advancing your academic career in one of the leading nations in science and research? Would you like to collaborate with German researchers and renowned scientists from different countries on first-class research projects?

Germany is home to a unique network of university and non-university research institutes with close links to industry and commerce. Here you will find a broad spectrum of research opportunities at hundreds of German science and research institutions. Following its Strategy for Internationalisation of Science and Research, the Federal Government wishes to support collaborative projects with outstanding researchers worldwide. Many research and funding organisations offer excellent funding opportunities and ideal conditions for foreign scientists in all fields. Over 26,000 foreign researchers received financial support from German funding organisations and agencies in 2009 alone.

This brochure, financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), offers a wide selection of funding programmes by various funding organisations for international academics and researchers – for students, graduates, doctoral students, postdocs and senior scientists. For more information about these programmes, we recommend contacting the respective funding organisation.

If you would like to learn more about Germany's research opportunities and funding system, we invite you to visit the "Research in Germany" portal at [www.research-in-germany.de](http://www.research-in-germany.de).

Under "Jobs and careers" you will find a listing of current vacancies at universities, colleges and research institutes for doctoral students, postdocs, professors and academic staff. Our web catalogue offers more than 300 annotated links to interesting R&D-related websites and key research areas.

We wish you success in conducting your research in Germany!

The Editors



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## German Research Foundation (DFG)

The DFG is the central, self-governing research funding organisation in Germany. Its mission is to fund and promote all fields of science and the humanities. It does so by relying on its statutory bodies and its head office, which shape the work and structure of the DFG. As a member of several international scientific and science policy associations, the DFG actively promotes international dialogue, cooperation among researchers and the formation of the European Research Area.



Contact:

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)  
Kennedyallee 40  
53175 Bonn, Germany  
[www.dfg.de/en](http://www.dfg.de/en)

## German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

The DAAD supports the international exchange of students, academics and scientists. It is a registered association whose members are German institutions of higher education and student bodies. Its primary objectives include encouraging outstanding young academics from abroad to study or conduct research in Germany and enabling young German researchers to gain professional qualification at the best institutions around the globe. The DAAD achieves these goals with over 250 programmes which are largely funded by the Federal Government.



Contact:

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)  
Kennedyallee 50  
53175 Bonn, Germany  
[www.daad.de/en](http://www.daad.de/en)

# 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 8,800 scientists at 79 Max Planck Institutes conduct basic research in the natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences and humanities.



Contact:

Max Planck Society (MPG)  
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80539 Munich, Germany

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

# Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH)

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation promotes academic cooperation between excellent scientists and scholars from Germany and abroad. Every year the foundation grants more than 800 research fellowships and awards. The alumni network is the foundation's greatest asset. It embraces over 24,000 Humboldtians in more than 130 countries.



**Alexander von Humboldt**  
Stiftung / Foundation

Contact:

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



## Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FhG)

With an annual research budget of 1.6 billion euros and 17,000 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 production technology, photonics, materials science, life science, microelectronics and ICT.



## 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, transport and space. With 30,000 employees in 16 research centres and an annual budget of approximately 3 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).



Contact:

Helmholtz Association  
of German Research Centres  
Dr. Stephanie Dittmer  
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10178 Berlin, Germany  
[org@helmholtz.de](mailto:org@helmholtz.de)  
[www.helmholtz.de/en](http://www.helmholtz.de/en)

# Leibniz Association (WGL)

The Leibniz Association is an umbrella organisation of 86 scientific institutes providing an annual budget of more than 1 billion euros. About 6,500 scientists work on an extremely diverse range of subjects, including the humanities and social sciences, economics, spatial and life sciences, mathematics, the natural and engineering sciences and environmental research.



Contact:

Leibniz Association (WGL)  
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Eduard-Pflüger-Straße 55  
53113 Bonn, Germany

[lilli@leibniz-gemeinschaft.de](mailto:lilli@leibniz-gemeinschaft.de)  
[www.leibniz-association.eu](http://www.leibniz-association.eu)

# International Bureau of the BMBF (IB)

The International Bureau is commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) to strengthen the international ties of German universities, research institutes and enterprises. To this end, the IB offers various programmes designed to finance and promote new international contacts and collaboration.



Contact:

International Bureau of the BMBF  
Dr. Jörn Sonnenburg  
Heinrich-Konen-Str. 1  
53227 Bonn, Germany  
[ib@dlr.de](mailto:ib@dlr.de)  
[www.internationales-buero.de/en](http://www.internationales-buero.de/en)



## Study Visits/Study Seminars and Practicals (DAAD)

### Target group

- Groups of 10 to 15 students in all disciplines who are fully matriculated in their second semester or higher in a relevant degree programme at a university and supervised by a university instructor

### Programme description

- Strengthens contact between foreign and German universities and provides insight into economic, political and cultural life in Germany

### Support

- Programme planning, full or partial subsistence allowance (depending on country of origin)

### Duration

- 7 to 12 days for study visits
- 7 to 12 days for study-integrated practical training

### More information

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



# University Summer Courses (DAAD)

## Target group

- Students in bachelor's and master's degree programmes as from the 3rd academic year (all disciplines) as well as doctoral students

## Programme description

- Language and area studies; German language instruction at a language institute in Germany

## Support

- Partial grants; flat-rate travel allowance (if applicable)

## Duration

- min. 18 days for university summer courses

## More information

- [www.summerschools-in-germany.de](http://www.summerschools-in-germany.de) (complete list of summer courses)
- [www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de)



## Study Scholarships (DAAD)

### Target group

- Graduates in all disciplines  
Students: please check DAAD website if available for your country

### Programme description

- Offers students the opportunity to acquire a master's degree or Diplom through a graduate or master's degree programme

### Support

- 750 euros per month and additional allowances

### Duration

- 10 to 24 months

### More information

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



## IAESTE Internships (DAAD)

### Target group

- Students in bachelor's and master's degree programmes in the natural sciences, engineering, agricultural and forestry sciences

### Programme description

- Internships in companies, research institutes and institutions of higher education

### Support

- 650 euros per month

### Duration

- Generally 2 to 3 months, maximum 12 months

### More information

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



## Funding for Joint Research Collaboration (DAAD)

### Target group

- Academics, scientists, graduates, doctoral students, diploma students from Germany and a respective partner country with which an appropriate agreement has been signed

### Programme description

- Aims to intensify scientific cooperation within the scope of a concrete, joint research project

### Support

- Allowances for travel and subsistence, paid by the respective institution (DAAD funding for German partner only)

### Duration

- max. 3 years for the entire project

### More information

- [www.daad.de/ppp](http://www.daad.de/ppp) (information in German only), please consult your local DAAD office



Students

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Senior Scientists

For Foreigners

For Germans

# International Helmholtz Research Schools and Graduate Schools

## Target group

- Doctoral students from Germany and abroad

## Programme description

- Interdisciplinary postgraduate training in cooperation with universities. Doctoral students acquire key competence beyond their doctoral field for careers in research or industry. The language of instruction is English

## Support

- Fellowships or work contracts; funding amount based on qualification level and family status

## Duration

- Generally 3 years with possible extension

## More information

- Submit applications to the Helmholtz Research Schools or Graduate Schools:  
[www.helmholtz.de/phd](http://www.helmholtz.de/phd)



# Individual Dissertation at Helmholtz Centres

## Target group

- Doctoral students from Germany and abroad

## Programme description

- Enables students to obtain a PhD through interdisciplinary postgraduate training and research work

## Support

- Fellowships or work contracts; funding amount based on qualification level and family status

## Duration

- Generally 3 years with possible extension

## More information

- Submit applications to the Helmholtz researcher/supervisor:  
[www.helmholtz.de/jobs](http://www.helmholtz.de/jobs)



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# International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS)

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## Target group

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- Outstanding graduate students from all over the world
- Offers students the opportunity to earn doctoral degrees in structured programmes that provide excellent research conditions. The IMPRS are jointly managed by the Max Planck Institutes and universities where IMPRS students have the choice of receiving their doctorates either from a German university or their university at home

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## Support

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- Funding based on qualification level and family status; grants and work contracts range in value from 1,000 to 1,622 euros per month

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## Duration

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- 3 years

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## More information

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- [www.imprs.mpg.de](http://www.imprs.mpg.de)



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT



# Leibniz Graduate Schools (WGL)

## Target group

- Outstanding doctoral students from Germany and abroad
- Offers training to outstanding doctoral students in an excellent research environment (broad scientific area, institution with international reputation, enables doctoral students to become active members of their academic and social communities)

## Support

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

## Duration

- Scholarship for a maximum of 3 years

## More information

- Submit applications directly to the coordinator of the Research Training Group  
[www.leibniz-association.eu](http://www.leibniz-association.eu)



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# Individual Doctoral Projects at Max Planck Institutes (MPG)

## Target group

- Highly qualified doctoral students

## Programme description

- Enables highly qualified doctoral students to carry out a doctoral project within the scope of research work conducted at a Max Planck Institute

## Support

- Funding based on qualification level and family status; grants or work contracts range in value from 1,000 to 1,622 euros per month

## Duration

- 3 years

## More information

- Applications may be submitted at any time  
[www.mpg.de/english/institutesProjectsFacilities/instituteChoice](http://www.mpg.de/english/institutesProjectsFacilities/instituteChoice)



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# Individual Doctoral Projects at Fraunhofer Institutes (FhG)

## Target group

- Doctoral students from Germany and abroad

## Programme description

- Enables dedicated doctoral students to work on exciting projects in the newest areas of technology with state-of-the-art equipment

## Support

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

## Duration

- Generally 3 years with option to renew

## More information

- Submit applications to the Fraunhofer Institute of your choice. For an overview of all vacancies, visit: [www.jobs.fraunhofer.de/EN](http://www.jobs.fraunhofer.de/EN)



# IPSWaT – International Postgraduate Studies in Water Technologies (IB)

## Target group

- Highly qualified students and young scientists who specialise in the water sector. Candidates should work on a subject that is related to their home country or region and follow an integrated, methodical approach. Proposals related to integrated, sustainable water management and innovative water technologies are particularly welcome

## Programme description

- Provides outstandingly qualified students and young scientists in the water sector an opportunity to pursue a master's degree at a German university which are international in scope, related to water technologies and taught in English. Scholarships are available for both master's degree and PhD programmes

## Support

- 750 euros per month (master's degree) or 1,000 euros per month (PhD) plus additional allowances

## Duration

- 24 months (master's degree); 36 months (PhD)

## More information

- [www.ipswat.de](http://www.ipswat.de)



# Research Training Groups (DFG)

## Target group

- Doctoral researchers, postdocs, applicants who have received a bachelor's degree or a degree from a university of applied science (Fachhochschule)

## Programme description

- Supports young researchers who wish to pursue a doctorate within a structured research programme
- Recruits outstanding international doctoral students and promotes early academic independence
- Programme variant: International Research Training Groups (joint research training programme with partner institution abroad)

## Support

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

## Duration

- Two 4-year cycles (max. 9 years) for Research Training Groups
- Generally 3 years for doctoral positions

## More information

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



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## Graduate Schools (DFG)

### Target group

- Outstanding doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers
- Offers training to outstanding doctoral students in an excellent research environment (broad scientific area, institution with international reputation, enables doctoral students to become active members of their academic and social communities)

### Support

- Research positions and scholarships; funding for consumables and travel allowances

### Duration

- 5 years for Clusters of Excellence (for more details, see [www.dfg.de/en/research\\_funding/programmes/excellence\\_initiative/clusters\\_excellence](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/excellence_initiative/clusters_excellence))
- Generally 3 years for doctoral positions

### More information

- Submit applications to the coordinator of the graduate school of your choice [www.dfg.de/en/exin/gsc/](http://www.dfg.de/en/exin/gsc/)



# Research Fellowships in Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research (DLR-DAAD)

## Target group

- Highly qualified foreign doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers and senior scientists
- Offers outstanding scientists and researchers the opportunity to conduct special research at the institutes of the DLR in Germany. The fellowships are defined and awarded on an individual basis. Each fellowship announcement indicates the specific qualification requirements and terms of the visit. To view the fellowships currently being offered, please visit the DAAD and DLR websites.

## Support

- Doctoral students: 1,000 euros per month with possible additional flat-rate travel allowance, health insurance, family allowances
- Postdoctoral students: 1,840 euros per month
- Senior scientists: 2,240 euros per month

## Duration

- 36 months for doctoral students; 6 to 24 months for postdoctoral researchers; 1 to 3 months for senior scientists

## More information

- [www.daad.de/deutschland/foerderung/ausschreibungen/09009.en.html](http://www.daad.de/deutschland/foerderung/ausschreibungen/09009.en.html)  
The DLR and DAAD will decide whether to continue this programme at the end of 2010
- [www.dlr.de/en](http://www.dlr.de/en)



# Re-integration of German Scientists from Abroad (DAAD)

## Target group

- Doctoral students about to finish their PhD, postdocs and senior scientists who are no longer integrated in the German academic system and would like to return to Germany after having spent at least one year abroad

## Programme description

- Individuals may apply for travel grants for job interviews and scientific presentations in Germany to enable their possible return, or for scholarships to conduct research in Germany with the goal of re-integrating into the German scientific community

## Support

- Travel grants vary and are based on flat rates determined by the DAAD with an additional daily allowance of 60 euros; doctoral students are awarded scholarships of 925 euros per month, postdocs and senior scientists are awarded scholarships between 1,365 and 1,519 euros per month

## Duration

- max. 1 week for travel grants
- 1 to 6 months for scholarships

## More information

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



## Research Grants (DAAD)

### Target group

- Doctoral students and young academics/scientists from all disciplines
- Research project within the scope of a doctoral programme; research studies
- 750 to 1,000 euros per month (depending on qualification level) and additional allowances

### Duration

- 1 to 10 months if doctorate is gained in a foreign country; up to 3 years for a full doctoral programme in Germany

### More information

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



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For Foreigners

For Germans

## Collaborative Research Centres (DFG)

### Target group

- Doctoral students, postdocs and senior scientists

### Programme description

- Creates core research areas at universities by establishing longer-term collaborative research projects. Collaborative Research Centres promote interdisciplinary cooperation and opportunities of advancement for young researchers

### Support

- Staff funding (including sabbaticals), scientific instrumentation, consumables, travel, publications, colloquiums, guest funding, international collaborative projects, gender equality measures, public relations, information infrastructure, integrated research training groups, transfer projects and guest projects

### Duration

- max. 12 years (with 4-year funding periods) for Collaborative Research Centres
- 3 years for doctoral positions

### More information

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



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# Max Planck Grants for Advanced Postdoctoral Training (MPG)

## Target group

- Outstanding postdocs from Germany and abroad who have been working in science and research for at least 2 years or hold a comparable qualification

## Programme description

- Provides postdocs the opportunity to gain additional knowledge and skills at a Max Planck Institute within the scope of their prior professional qualification

## Support

- Funding based on qualification or age and family status; ranges from 2,100 to 3,260 euros per month for foreign postdocs; 1,443 to 1,826 euros per month for German postdocs

## Duration

- 2 years with possible 1-year extension

## More information

- [www.mpg.de/english/institutesProjectsFacilities/instituteChoice](http://www.mpg.de/english/institutesProjectsFacilities/instituteChoice)



# Emmy Noether Programme (DFG)

## Target group

- Excellent young researchers from all disciplines with postdoctoral experience of at least 2 years and up to a maximum of 4 years (medical researchers: up to 6 years) and substantial international research experience
- Foreign applicants are eligible if they intend to continue their scientific career in Germany following completion of the funding period

## Programme description

- Enables outstanding young 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 based on BAT Ia/E15 TV-L and covers expenses for personnel and consumables necessary to complete the project during the funding period

## Duration

- Generally 5 years (max. 6 years)

## More information

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



# Postdoctoral Programme (DAAD)

## Target group

- Outstanding young researchers in all disciplines who hold a doctorate and wish to conduct research abroad

## Programme description

- Allows German researchers to carry out independent research projects at host institutions abroad

## Support

- Research fellowship, travel allowance, family allowance, re-integration support

## Duration

- 3 months to 2 years

## More information

- [www.auslands-stipendien.de](http://www.auslands-stipendien.de) (website in German only)



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# Head of a Max Planck Research Group at Max Planck Institutes (MPG)

## Target group

- Young, highly qualified scientists and researchers
- The Max Planck Society offers gifted young scientists and researchers the possibility of independent scientific work through its 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 Law

## Duration

- 5 years (two 2-year extensions possible)

## More information

- [www.mpg.de/english/institutesProjectsFacilities/juniorResearchGroups](http://www.mpg.de/english/institutesProjectsFacilities/juniorResearchGroups)



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## Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers (AvH)

### Target group

- Highly qualified foreign academics and scientists in all disciplines who completed their doctorates less than 4 years ago
- Allows researchers to carry out their own research project in cooperation with an academic host of their choosing at a research institute in Germany

### Programme description

- Research fellowship (2,250 euros per month), allowance for research costs, language fellowship, travel expenses, family allowances, integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship

### Duration

- 6 to 24 months

### More information

- Applications may be submitted at any time;  
[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/humboldt-fellowship-postdoc.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/humboldt-fellowship-postdoc.html)





## Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers (AvH)

### Target group

- Highly qualified academics and scientists from developing and threshold countries in all disciplines who completed their doctorates less than 4 years ago

### Programme description

- Allows researchers to carry out a research project in Germany in cooperation with an academic host of their choosing. The research project must deal with issues of relevance to development policy

### Support

- Research fellowship (2,250 euros per month), allowance for research costs, language fellowship, travel expenses, family allowances, integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship

### Duration

- 6 to 24 months

### More information

- Applications may be submitted at any time;  
[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/georg-forster-fellowship-postdoc.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/georg-forster-fellowship-postdoc.html)





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## Sofja Kovalevskaia Award (AvH)

### Target group

- Successful, top-ranked junior researchers from abroad who completed their doctorates with distinction less than 6 years ago

### Programme description

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

### Support

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

### Duration

- 5 years

### More information

- Candidates must apply jointly with their host institution;  
[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/kovalevskaia-award.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/kovalevskaia-award.html)



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung / Foundation



# Helmholtz Young Investigators Groups

## Target group

- Excellent foreign or German junior researchers who would like to participate in a Helmholtz programme, 2 to 6 years after receiving their doctorate (child-rearing periods are taken into account)

## Programme description

- Provides the best foreign and domestic junior researchers with excellent working conditions in a research-oriented environment. Researchers are granted independence early on with secure career prospects ('tenure track') based on proven scientific achievements. The leaders of Investigators Groups are expected to work closely with university partners. They have the opportunity to gain teaching experience and acquire the qualifications for a higher academic career

## Support

- Young Investigators Groups are awarded a minimum of 250,000 euros a year, which includes:
  - Salary of group leader, generally E 14/15 TVöD or BAT Ib/Ia pay scale rate,
  - Salaries of scientific or technical staff (three on average),
  - Expenses for materials, supplies and investments

## Duration

- 5 years with an evaluation after 3 to 4 years

## More information

- [www.helmholtz.de/yig](http://www.helmholtz.de/yig)



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# Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship for postdoctoral researchers (AvH)

## Target group

- Highly qualified scholars and scientists from Germany who completed their doctorates less than four years ago; all disciplines

## Programme description

- This fellowship allows researchers to carry out a research project abroad at a scientific host institution. The host must be an academic previously sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation; research stay in all countries

## Support

- Research fellowship, travel expenses, reintegration allowance, return fellowship, integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship

## Duration

- 6 to 24 months; applications possible at any time

## More information

- [www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/feodor-lynen-fellowship-postdoc.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/feodor-lynen-fellowship-postdoc.html)



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation



# Research Fellowship (DFG)

## Target group

- German researchers (or international researchers provided they have completed at least three years of scientific work as a doctoral or postdoctoral researcher in the German research system) of all disciplines who have completed their academic qualifications (doctorate). The fellowship is granted for research stays outside Germany

## Programme description

- To enable researchers at an early stage of their scientific career to carry out a clearly defined research project at a place of their choice abroad or to acquaint themselves with new scientific research methods

## Support

- Basic fellowship plus monthly lump sum payment to cover maintenance and travel costs (Where applicable: Foreign allowance, Travel allowance, Publication costs), benefits for fellowship recipients with children (children's supplement, support for costs associated with parenting – fellowship extension or childcare allowances)

## Duration

- Generally up to 2 years

## More information

- [www.dfg.de/en/research\\_fellowships/](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_fellowships/)



## Research Stays, Re-invitations (DAAD)

### Target group

- Foreign university teachers, academics, scientists, former holders of DAAD long-term scholarships (more than 6 months)

### Programme description

- Allows candidates to carry out a research or study project at a German university or non-university research institute

### Support

- Between 1,840 and 1,990 euros per month (depending on academic status); travel allowance (if applicable)

### Duration

- 1 to 3 months

### More information

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



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## Preparatory Measures for International Cooperation (IB)

### Target group

- German institutions of higher education, non-university research institutes and small and medium-sized enterprises, R&D clusters and networks usually in partnership with foreign institutions

### Programme description

- The International Bureau offers a variety of grants on behalf of the BMBF which lay the groundwork for transnational collaborative research projects or institutional partnerships, including feasibility studies and pilot studies

### Support

- Grants cover accommodation costs for foreign experts visiting Germany, travel expenses for German experts visiting partners abroad, costs of scientific workshops, smaller investments and consumables for feasibility studies and pilot investigations and personnel. In many cases, foreign funding organisations provide matching funding within the framework of intergovernmental agreements

### Duration

- Between 6 months and 3 years (specified in the call for proposals)

### More information

- [www.internationales-buero.de](http://www.internationales-buero.de)



# Initiation and Intensification of Bilateral Cooperation (DFG)

## Target group

- Scientists and academics in the German scientific community who hold a doctorate

## Programme description

- Facilitates international cooperation by allowing eligible German and foreign scientists and academics to plan a partner visit and/or joint workshop with their partners. It supports the early stages of planning, developing and coordinating joint research collaboration 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, event costs
- Cost categories may be co-financed by a foreign partner organisation if an appropriate agreement exists

## Duration

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

## More information

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



Students

Graduates/Doctoral Students

PostDocs

Senior Scientists

For Foreigners

For Germans

## Fraunhofer Attract (FhG)

### Target group

- Highly qualified scientists and researchers worldwide, preferably with postdoc experience, a remarkable scientific track record and a promising idea to be developed for industrial application

### Programme description

- Fraunhofer Attract offers substantial funding, both budget and recruiting responsibility, research in close cooperation with industry at state-of-the-art equipped Fraunhofer Labs as well as optimal prospects in science and economy

### Support

- 500,000 euros per year for 5 years (total of 2.5 million euros) for scientific 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

### More information

- [www.fraunhofer.de/EN/attract](http://www.fraunhofer.de/EN/attract)



# Temporary Position for Principal Investigators (DFG)

## Target group

- Researchers who have completed their academic training and attained a doctorate

## Programme description

- Provides researchers (especially early in their career) the opportunity to independently carry out research projects in an ideal research environment in Germany

## Support

- Funding is generally based on the BAT IIa / BAT-O IIa or TVÖD / TV-L pay scale. The terms and conditions for research grants apply. Researchers from non-university institutions are required to participate in joint projects with their university partners. Exceptions may be made for young researchers at non-university institutions who have received their doctorates in the preceding 6 years

## Duration

- max. 36 months

## More information

- [www.dfg.de/en/temporary\\_positions/](http://www.dfg.de/en/temporary_positions/)



# Bilateral Exchange of Academics and Scientists (DAAD)

## Target group

- Academics and scientists from universities or research institutes working in all subject areas in Germany or in partner countries with which an appropriate agreement has been signed

## Programme description

- Supports research or study visit within the scope of the bilateral exchange of academics and scientists

## Support

- For foreign academics, the partner institution pays the international travel costs and the DAAD pays a subsistence allowance. For German academics, the DAAD pays a travel allowance and the partner institution pays a subsistence allowance

## Duration

- 2 weeks to 3 months

## More information

- [www.auslands-stipendien.de](http://www.auslands-stipendien.de) (website in German only)
- [www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de)



# Fraunhofer Fellowship Programme PROF.x<sup>2</sup> (FhG)

## Target group

- Outstanding senior scientists with PhDs and at least 3 years of work experience in their research field

## Programme description

- Funds working visits by senior researchers from the US, China or Japan at Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany, or enables senior Fraunhofer researchers to work at American or Asian research institutes

## Support

- Funding covers personnel costs, allowances for working abroad, rental expenses, costs of travel to and from Germany and the partner countries

## Duration

- 6 months, max. 1 year if the cooperation fits strategic goals

## More information

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



# Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers (AvH)

## Target group

- Highly qualified, foreign academics and scientists in all disciplines who completed their doctorates less than twelve years ago

## Programme description

- Allows researchers to carry out their own research project in cooperation with an academic host of their choosing at a research institute in Germany

## Support

- Research fellowship (2,450 euros per month), allowance for research costs, language fellowship, travel expenses, family allowances, integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship

## Duration

- 6 to 18 months, may be divided into a maximum of three blocks

## More information

- Applications may be submitted at any time;  
[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/humboldt-fellowship-experienced.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/humboldt-fellowship-experienced.html)





Students

Graduates/Doctoral Students

PostDocs

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For Foreigners

For Germans

## Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship for experienced researchers (AvH)

### Target group

- Highly qualified scholars and scientists from Germany who completed their doctorates less than twelve years ago; all disciplines

### Programme description

- This fellowship allows researchers to carry out a research project abroad at a scientific host institution. The host must be an academic previously sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation; research stay in all countries

### Support

- Research fellowship, travel expenses, reintegration allowance, return fellowship, integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship

### Duration

- 6 to 18 months, may be divided up into a maximum of three blocks; applications possible at any time

### More information

- [www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/feodor-lynen-fellowship-experienced.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/feodor-lynen-fellowship-experienced.html)



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung / Foundation



# Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers (AvH)

## Target group

- Highly qualified scholars and scientists from developing and threshold countries in all disciplines who completed their doctorates less than 12 years ago

## Programme description

- 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 issues of relevance to development policy

## Support

- Research fellowship (2,450 euros per month), allowance for research costs, language fellowship, travel expenses, family allowances, integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship

## Duration

- 6 to 18 months, may be divided up into a maximum of three blocks

## More information

- Applications may be submitted at any time;  
[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/georg-forster-fellowship-experienced.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/georg-forster-fellowship-experienced.html)





Students

Graduates/Doctoral Students

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For Foreigners

For Germans

# Foreign Visiting Scientists at Max Planck Institutes (MPG)

## Target group

- Highly qualified foreign scientists
- Enables foreign scientists to conduct independent research at a Max Planck Institute. The goal of this programme is to strengthen cooperation and promote networking between the Max Planck Institutes and their international partners

## Support

- Individual grants and travel allowances

## Duration

- Variable, visits can start any time

## More information

- [www.mpg.de/english/institutesProjectsFacilities/](http://www.mpg.de/english/institutesProjectsFacilities/)



## Foreign Visiting Scientists at Leibniz Institutes (WGL)

### Target group

- Highly qualified foreign scientists
- Allows senior scientists to pursue or complete research in the scientific context of a Leibniz Institute. The programme promotes networking and strengthens cooperation between the Leibniz Institutes and their international partners

### Support

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

### Duration

- Depends on the host institute, visits can start any time

### More information

- Contact the potential host Leibniz Institute directly:  
[www.leibniz-association.eu](http://www.leibniz-association.eu)



# Mercator Visiting Professorships (DFG)

## Target group

- Highly qualified foreign researchers who want to complete a research stay in Germany, ideally in a joint cooperative project by the guest and host institution

## Programme description

- Enables highly qualified researchers to complete a DFG-funded research stay at a university in Germany. The visit should focus on joint cooperative projects by the guest and host and include some teaching duties in order to provide an international dimension to the research-oriented training of young researchers in the host departments

## Support

- Funding usually includes a monthly stipend, travel allowances to and from Germany, travel allowances within Germany and financial support for a research assistant

## Duration

- 3 to 12 months

## More information

- Applications can be submitted by the German host university at any time and must be submitted or endorsed by the rector/president of the university;  
[www.dfg.de/mercator](http://www.dfg.de/mercator)



# Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award (FhG)

## Target group

- Internationally recognised, outstanding scientists from non-European countries who completed their doctorates less than 18 years ago and who work in research fields which correspond to those of the hosting Fraunhofer Institute

## 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. Award winners become part of a network of academics worldwide, maintained by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

## Support

- Up to 3 Fraunhofer Bessel Research Awards of 45,000 euros each are conferred every year

## Duration

- max. 12 months

## More information

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

[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/fraunhofer-bessel-award.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/fraunhofer-bessel-award.html)





Students

Graduates/Doctoral Students

PostDocs

Senior Scientists

For Foreigners

For Germans

## Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award (AvH)

### Target group

- Internationally renowned scientists and scholars from abroad who completed their doctorates less than 18 years ago

### 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 may be divided into blocks. Nominations may be submitted by established academics in Germany at any time

### Support

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

### Duration

- 6- to 12-month research stay in Germany

### More information

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





Students

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For Germans

## Humboldt Research Award (AvH)

### Target group

- Eminent foreign researchers at the peak of their academic careers and in leading positions, such as full professors or directors of institutes

### Programme description

- Award winners are 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 may be divided into blocks. Nominations may be submitted by established academics in Germany at any time

### Support

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

### Duration

- 6- to 12-month research stay in Germany

### More information

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





# Heisenberg Programme – Fellowship (DFG)

## Target group

- Outstanding researchers who qualify for a professorship by holding a habilitation or equivalent qualification
- Provides excellent researchers the opportunity to prepare for a leading position in science and research and to spend time working on an advanced research topic

## Programme description

- Fellowship, travel allowances and, where applicable, allowances for accommodation abroad, publication funding

## Duration

- max. 5 years

## More information

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



# Heisenberg Programme – Professorship (DFG)

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## Target group

- Outstanding researchers who qualify for a professorship by holding a habilitation or equivalent qualification

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## Programme description

- Offers excellent researchers the reliable prospect of a professorship. To be eligible, candidates must find a German university which intends to establish a new professorship and agrees to continue funding the position after DFG funding expires

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## Support

- Salary based on the W2 (or W3) pay scale level for professors

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## Duration

- max. 5 years

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## More information

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



# Alexander von Humboldt Professorship (AvH)

## Target group

- Academics in all disciplines from abroad who are internationally recognised as leaders in their field

## Programme description

- Enables award winners to carry out long-term and groundbreaking research in Germany and give German universities – also in cooperation with non-university research institutions – the opportunity to establish or upgrade internationally visible research focus areas to enhance their profile. Applications should be submitted by German universities. Non-university research institutions may also submit joint nominations with a German university. Three selections per year

## Support

- 5 million euros for academics in experimental disciplines, 3.5 million euros for researchers in theoretical disciplines. The 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

## More information

- [www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/alexander-von-humboldt-professorship.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/alexander-von-humboldt-professorship.html)





# EU-Funding Programmes

The European Union (EU) also provides extensive research funding programmes for scientists and researchers who are already working in Germany or moving to Germany for employment purposes. These include:

## The European Research Council (ERC)



The ERC is a funding body that finances investigator-driven frontier research. The ERC Starting Grants support promising researchers who wish to create an independent research team or consolidate one that already exists. The ERC Advanced Grants complement the Starting Grant funding scheme by targeting researchers who have already established themselves as independent research leaders in their own right. ERC Advanced Grants allow exceptional research leaders in any field of science, scholarship and engineering to pursue frontier research of their choice.

More information: <http://erc.europa.eu>, [www.nks-erc.de](http://www.nks-erc.de)

## Marie Curie Actions



The Marie Curie Actions offer numerous opportunities to researchers who wish to participate in a research team in another country. Funding is available for researchers to move both within Europe and internationally. With its aim to enhance networking between researchers, the EU also funds

researchers from non-European countries to receive training in Europe. Three types of 'Individual-Driven Actions' are available to researchers of all ages with at least four years of experience or a doctoral degree.

More information: [www.nks-mobilitaet.de](http://www.nks-mobilitaet.de)  
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people>

For more information on other funding provided by the EU, please visit the website of the EU Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) at [www.eubuero.de](http://www.eubuero.de) (in German only).

## EURAXESS Germany funding database



The EURAXESS Germany funding database comprises more than 80 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)



# All Funding Programmes

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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, 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)



### Deutschland Portal – Grants and Scholarships



Are you planning a research trip to Germany? Or looking for information on scholarship programmes? This website contains an alphabetical list of organisations and agencies that offer grants and scholarships in Germany.

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

### DAAD Funding Database

The scholarship database by 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)



### 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, 450 foundations, business associations and individuals. This website offers a search engine for research grants and other funding opportunities offered by more than 450 foundations.

[www.stifterverband.de/stiftungen\\_und\\_stifter/stiftungen\\_suche](http://www.stifterverband.de/stiftungen_und_stifter/stiftungen_suche)



## 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 promotional measures and events presenting German innovation and research in key international markets have been organised on behalf of BMBF. The initiative seeks to strengthen and expand R&D collaboration between Germany and international partners.

The following "Research in Germany" publications are now available as downloads at  
[www.research-in-germany.de/downloads](http://www.research-in-germany.de/downloads):

- "FAQ – Preparing your research stay in Germany"
- "FAQ – How to do a doctorate in Germany"  
(release: July 2010)
- "German Research Institutions at a Glance"
- "Discover how you can realise your ideas with Europe's leader in science"
- "Welcome to Nanotech Germany"
- "Keeping the Blue Planet Green"

We hope that our brochures will help you prepare for your research stay in Germany. 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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[www.research-in-germany.de/newsletter](http://www.research-in-germany.de/newsletter)



Publisher:

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)  
Section 523 - Marketing for Research  
Kennedyallee 50, 53175 Bonn  
[www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de), [www.research-in-germany.de](http://www.research-in-germany.de)

Project Coordination: Theresa Holz, Anke Sobieraj

Organisation of Data Collection and Editing: Esther Kirk

Translation and Final Editing: Robert Brambeer

Layout and Typesetting: [www.axeptDESIGN.de](http://www.axeptDESIGN.de), Berlin

Print run: 20.000 - June 2010

Printed by: Brandt GmbH, Bonn

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Any reproduction, even of extracts, only with appropriate source details.

This publication was funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

