



Information on the allocation of Special Research Fellowships to applicants from Egypt and Tunisia

In order to help promote exchange and cooperation with highly-qualified, post-doctoral junior researchers from Egypt and Tunisia the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is granting Special Research Fellowships. Within this programme, which runs until the end of 2013 and is being financed by the Federal Foreign Office, a total of up to ten Special Research Fellowships may be granted immediately. The final allocation of fellowships is currently dependent on budgetary approval and will be implemented if sufficient financial means are available.

The selection and sponsorship of applicants are governed by the same basic rules and regulations that apply to the Humboldt Research Fellowship Programme for Post-doctoral Researchers/Experienced Researchers (see [Programme Information](#)). The selection procedure differs in that it includes personal interviews to be conducted with the candidates in Cairo and Tunis.

Any applications that have already been submitted to the Humboldt and Georg Forster Research Fellowship Programmes as well as any applications arriving from Egypt or Tunisia before **15 March 2012** will be processed in the context of the Special Programme. See below for additional information on the application and selection procedures.

Alternatively, post-doctoral researchers (up to four years after completing their doctorates) who are interested in an extended research stay in Germany but have not yet come to a firm agreement with an academic host in Germany, still have until **15 March 2012** to submit the required documents (see below). Successful candidates will initially receive a fellowship for six months which may be extended to the end of the Special Programme period after a successful orientation phase.

All successful applicants will be given the opportunity to attend a two-month intensive language course in Germany prior to the actual fellowship period.

The language and/or research fellowship may begin on 1 July 2012 at the earliest and must begin by 1 September 2012 at the latest. The sponsorship period cannot be extended beyond 31 January 2014.

Academics who have already been sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation are not eligible to re-apply for this special programme. For support for further research stays, Alumni should turn to the Foundation's Alumni Programme, which will also benefit from additional funding in the context of this special programme.

Application and Selection Procedure

for applicants with a host's statement

Applications for this special programme should be sent to the following address **by 15 March 2012**:

**Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
Selection Department
Jean-Paul-Str. 12, 53173 Bonn, Germany**

Applications arriving after this date will be processed in the context of the Foundation's regular research fellowship programmes.

Please only use the current application package for the Humboldt Research Fellowship Programme which can be downloaded from the Humboldt Foundation's [website](#) or obtained from the Foundation directly.

The Humboldt Foundation will confirm receipt of applications by email. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that their applications are complete. If applications cannot be completed by 15 March 2012, processing will take place in the context of the regular research fellowship programmes. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant unprocessed.

When all the documentation has been submitted and the host's statement has been received, the application package will be forwarded to independent experts for review. If the results of this review are positive, applicants will be invited to attend an interview in Cairo or Tunis. If they are negative, the applicant will receive a rejection notice citing the factors that led the expert reviewers to recommend rejection.

Candidates will be asked to introduce themselves and answer questions on the proposed research stay and their future career plans during individual interviews with a small group of reviewers. The final decision will be made by this group of reviewers and communicated to the candidates immediately after the individual interviews. If the decision is positive, the grant documents will be handed over on the spot. Short feedback sessions will allow unsuccessful candidates to learn why their proposals have been rejected. There is no right of appeal.

Additional details on the fellowship specifications and the research stay can be found in the [Guidelines and Information for Research Fellows](#). Applications and sponsorship are also subject to the [Rules of Good Scientific Practice](#) and the [ethical rules of the 7th EU Framework Programme](#).

Declaration of interest by candidates without host's statement

Post-doctoral researchers who do not have a firm host's statement from an academic host are also eligible to declare their interest in a fellowship **until 15 March 2012**. The relevant documents should be submitted as an **email** attachment in a standard form (e.g. PDF) and sent to **info@avh.de**. Incomplete declarations of interest will not be processed.

The following documents should be submitted:

- motivation letter stating the contents and objectives of the proposed research stay in Germany (max. 2 pages)
- full curriculum vitae and complete list of all scientific publications

- list of no more than three key publications with appropriate explanations (see Humboldt Research Fellowship Programme for format, max. 2 pages)
- copy of doctoral certificate
- list of no more than three potential hosts for a research stay in Germany, giving details of the host institution and direct contact details (telephone, email), in order of preference

The Humboldt Foundation will confirm receipt of declarations of interest by email. If the formal requirements have been fulfilled, the declaration of interest will be forwarded to the hosts chosen in the order given. If any of the hosts affirms his/her interest in a collaboration by confirming that a research position will be made available for an initial period of six months, the candidate will be invited to an interview with a small group of reviewers in Cairo or Tunis. If the volume of successful declarations of interest exceeds the number of potential interviews, the Humboldt Foundation will pre-select on the basis of the documentation submitted. The rest of the procedure is the same as that for candidates who have a host's statement, described above.

If the decision is positive, the fellowship will initially be granted for six months plus an optional intensive language course lasting two months prior to the actual fellowship period. In order to extend the fellowship until 31 January 2014 at the most, fellows should submit a detailed research plan in the fourth month of the fellowship that has been agreed upon with the host. Hosts will be asked by the Humboldt Foundation to submit a separate, confidential statement on the extension request. Approval is dependent on the availability of sufficient financial means.

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