



German Funding Programmes for Scientists and Researchers

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



AN INITIATIVE OF THE



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

Research in
Germany



Land of Ideas

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 offers a broad spectrum of research opportunities at hundreds of university and non-university research institutes with close links to industry.

Following its Strategy for Internationalisation of Science and Research 2020, the Federal Government supports collaborative projects with outstanding researchers worldwide. Many research and funding organisations offer excellent funding opportunities and ideal conditions for foreign scholars in all fields. Roughly 30,000 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), presents a wide selection of

funding programmes by various funding organisations for international academics and researchers – for students, graduates, PhD students and junior and senior researchers. For more details 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. Under "Jobs & Careers" you will find a listing of job portals with current vacancies. Additionally, you will find information on career opportunities for PhD students, postdocs/junior researchers, 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 research in Germany!

The Editors



Contents

German Research Funding Organisations.....	4-7
Funding Programmes for	
Students	8-9, 11-12, 57
Graduates	9-12, 15-19, 23, 57
PhD Students.....	12-24, 56-57
Postdocs/Junior Researchers.....	12, 19-43, 56-59
Senior Researchers	12, 21-22, 24, 37-55, 57, 60-61
All Funding Programmes Listed by Organisation	62-63
Useful Links	64-65
About "Research in Germany"	66
Students.....	Students enrolled at a recognised institution of higher education.
Graduates	Higher-education graduates with a first-level professional qualification that is at least equivalent to a bachelor's degree.
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.
Postdocs/Junior Researchers...	Young researchers who hold a doctorate or a qualification that is equivalent to a doctorate.
Senior Researchers	Researchers who hold a doctorate or a qualification that is equivalent to a doctorate and have (several years of) relevant (research) experience.
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 800 research fellowships and awards. The alumni network is the foundation's greatest asset, comprised of over 25,000 Humboldtians in more than 130 countries – including 47 Nobel laureates.



Contact:

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
Jean-Paul-Straße 12
53173 Bonn, Germany
info@avh.de
www.humboldt-foundation.de

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft

With an annual research budget of 1.7 billion euros and more than 18,000 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 information and communication technologies (ICT).



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www.fraunhofer.de

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

The DAAD supports the international exchange of students, academics and researchers. 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
Kennedyallee 50
53175 Bonn, Germany
study-in-germany@daad.de
www.daad.de



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
Kennedyallee 40
53175 Bonn, Germany
info-nachwuchs@dfg.de
www.dfg.de



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, aeronautics, space and transport. With more than 30,000 employees in 18 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
Nina Löchte
Anna-Louisa-Karsch-Straße 2
10178 Berlin, Germany
org@helmholtz.de
www.helmholtz.de

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-Straße 1
53227 Bonn, Germany
ib@dlr.de
www.internationales-buero.de

Leibniz Association

The Leibniz Association is an umbrella organisation of 87 scientific institutes. The annual budget amounts to just under 1.4 billion euros. Some 7,800 scientists – over 1,100 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.



Contact:

Leibniz Association
Gerrit Freitag
Chausseestraße 111
10115 Berlin, Germany
freitag@leibniz-gemeinschaft.de
www.leibniz-association.eu

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 10,600 scientists at 81 Max Planck Institutes conduct basic research in the natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences and humanities. One third of these researchers come from abroad.



Contact:

Max Planck Society
Dr Michaela Zimmermann
Hofgartenstraße 8
80539 Munich, Germany
michaela.zimmermann@gv.mpg.de
www.mpg.de



Study Visits/Study Seminars and Practicals

Requirements/Target group

Funding can be provided for groups of students who are fully matriculated in their second semester or higher in a relevant degree programme at a foreign university and who are travelling in a group headed by a university teacher. Subject to approval by the DAAD, individual doctoral students can also be funded. To ensure that the conditions are given for a successful study trip, all the participants should, as far as possible, have a common level of language skills in a language of relevance to the programme. Groups should be made up of at least 10 and must not, as a rule, exceed 15 persons. In addition, funding can be provided for one university teacher as group leader.

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.

Application

Applications may only be submitted by university teachers from a foreign university (study visits) or by university teachers from a German university (study seminars and practicals).

MORE INFORMATION:

www.funding-guide.de

University Summer Courses

Requirements/Target group

Students in bachelor's and master's degree programmes starting their 3rd academic year (all disciplines).

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

Minimum of 18 days.

Application

The application requirements for summer courses vary from university to university. Please check the website of the respective course provider for specific information on application requirements.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.summerschools-in-germany.de
(complete list of summer courses)
www.funding-guide.de

Study Scholarships

Requirements/Target group

Highly qualified graduates who must have completed their first degree (bachelor's degree or a comparable academic qualification) before the scholarship begins. As a rule, applicants should have graduated no more than six years before the time of application.

Programme description

Enables graduates with a bachelor's degree or equivalent to acquire a master's degree or *Diplom* in an appropriate study programme.

Support

750 euros per month and additional allowances.

Duration

10 to 24 months.

Application

For detailed information on application requirements, please download the "Application Form for Research Grants and Study Scholarships" at www.daad.de/en/form.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.funding-guide.de

Practical Traineeships/IAESTE Programme

Requirements/Target group

Practical placements for foreign students in bachelor's and master's degree programmes in the natural sciences, engineering, agricultural and forestry sciences are awarded through the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE). This programme is therefore only offered in countries with an IAESTE National Committee.

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.

Application

Application and submission details are available from the IAESTE National Committee of your home country.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.iaeste.org
www.funding-guide.de

Bilateral Programme for Cooperative Research Grants/PPP

Requirements/Target group

Students (Bachelor, *Diplom*, *Magister*), graduates (Master), PhD students, postdocs and university teachers from Germany and a respective partner country with which a corresponding agreement has been signed.

Programme description

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

Support

Funding for travel and subsistence costs depending on the agreement/partner country.

Duration

Maximum of 3 years for the entire project.

Application

Applications are open to concrete research projects of high quality in which research groups from both countries collaborate and complement each other.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.daad.de/adressen
www.daad.de/ppp
(in German only), please consult
your local DAAD office

International Helmholtz Research Schools and Graduate Schools

Requirements/Target group

German and foreign PhD students with outstanding research achievements.

Programme description

Interdisciplinary postgraduate training in cooperation with universities. PhD 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; the funding amount is based on qualification level and family status.

Duration

Generally 3 years with possible extension.

Application

Submit applications to the Helmholtz Research Schools or Graduate Schools.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.helmholtz.de/phd

Individual Dissertation at Helmholtz Centres

Requirements/Target group

German and foreign PhD students with outstanding research achievements.

Programme description

Enables graduates to earn a doctorate through interdisciplinary post-graduate 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

Submit applications to the Helmholtz researcher/supervisor.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.helmholtz.de/jobs

International Max Planck Research Schools

Requirements/Target group

Outstanding graduate students from all over the world.

Programme description

Offers graduates the opportunity to complete a doctoral degree in structured programmes that provide excellent research conditions. The IMPRSs are jointly managed by the Max Planck Institutes and universities, whereby IMPRS students have the choice of receiving their doctorates either from a German university or their university at home.

Support

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

Duration

3 years.

Application

Applications must be submitted to the respective IMPRS.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.imprs.mpg.de

Leibniz Graduate Schools

Requirements/Target group

Outstanding PhD students from Germany and abroad.

Programme description

Offers training to outstanding PhD students in an excellent research environment (broad scientific area, institution with international reputation), enables them 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.

Application

Submit applications directly to the coordinator of the Research Training Group.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.leibniz-association.eu

Individual Doctoral Projects at Max Planck Institutes

Requirements/Target group

Excellent graduates and PhD students.

Programme description

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

Support

Funding is 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.

Application

Applications may be submitted to the relevant institute at any time.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.mpg.de/institutes

Individual Doctoral Projects at Fraunhofer Institutes

Requirements/Target group

PhD students from Germany and abroad.

Programme description

Enables dedicated PhD students 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; includes attractive benefits and flexible, family-friendly working conditions.

Duration

Generally 3 years with option to renew.

Application

Submit applications to the Fraunhofer Institute of your choice.



MORE INFORMATION:

For an overview of all vacancies, visit:
www.fraunhofer.de/en/jobs-career

Research Training Groups

Requirements/Target group

Doctorate, master's or bachelor's or a degree from a university of applied sciences (Fachhochschule).

Programme description

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

Support

Research Training Groups offer funding to PhD students, 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.

Application

Submit applications to the coordinator of the Research Training Group of your choice.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.dfg.de/gk/en

Graduate Schools

Requirements/Target group

Outstanding PhD students and postdocs/junior researchers.

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 enables them to become active members of their academic and social communities. Please note that additional positions are offered by the Clusters of Excellence within the Excellence Initiative.

Support

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

Duration

Generally 3 to 4 years for PhD positions.

Application

Submit applications to the coordinator of the Graduate School or Cluster of Excellence of your choice.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.dfg.de/en/exin/gsc

Research Fellowships in Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research

Requirements/Target group

Highly qualified foreign PhD students, postdocs/junior researchers and senior researchers.

Programme description

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 available, please visit the DAAD and DLR websites.

Support

PhD students: 1,000 euros per month with possible additional flat-rate travel allowance, health insurance, family allowances; postdocs/junior researchers: 1,840 euros per month; senior researchers: 2,240 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

The submission deadline is specified under “Current Offers” at www.daad.de/dlr.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.daad.de/dlr

Re-integration of German Scientists from Abroad

Requirements/Target group

PhD students about to finish their doctorate, postdocs/junior researchers and senior researchers who are no longer integrated in the German academic system and would like to return to Germany after having spent at least 1 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; PhD students are awarded scholarships of 925 euros per month, postdocs/junior researchers and senior researchers are awarded scholarships between 1,365 and 1,519 euros per month.

Duration

Maximum of 1 week for travel grants; 1 to 6 months for scholarships.

Application

Applications for re-integration scholarships must be submitted at least 3 months before the start of the desired scholarship and applications for travel grants at least 14 days before the date of travel.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.daad.de/rueckgewinnung
(in German only)

Research Grants

Requirements/Target group

Excellently qualified graduates in all disciplines who hold a *Diplom* or Master and, in exceptional cases, bachelor graduates as well as holders of a doctorate/PhD (postdoctoral researchers).

Programme description

Research project within the scope of a doctoral programme; research studies.

Support

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

Duration

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

Application

Information about the application process and application requirements pertaining to your country can be found at www.daad.de/stipendien.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.funding-guide.de



Collaborative Research Centres

Requirements/Target group

PhD students, postdocs/junior researchers and senior researchers.

Programme description

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

Support

Scholarships or positions for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers.

Duration

3 years for doctoral positions.

Application

Proposals may be submitted at any time. Submit application to the coordinator of the collaborative research centre of your choice.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.dfg.de/sfb/en

Max Planck Grants for Advanced Postdoctoral Training

Requirements/Target group

Outstanding postdocs/junior researchers 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/junior researchers the opportunity to gain additional knowledge and skills at a Max Planck Institute on the basis of their prior professional qualification.

Support

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

Duration

2 years with possible 1-year extension.

Application

Applications must be submitted to the respective institute. Also look out for additional calls for proposals in research journals and on the institute's website.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.mpg.de/institutes



Emmy Noether Programme

Requirements/Target group

Excellent research project and 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 research 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/Er15 TVL and covers expenses for personnel and consumables necessary to complete the project during the funding period.

Duration

Generally 5 years
(maximum of 6 years).

Application

No submission deadlines.



Postdoctoral Programme

Requirements/Target group

Outstanding junior researchers in all disciplines who hold a doctorate and wish to conduct research abroad. As a rule, the doctorate should not have been completed more than 4 years before the application. In the case of physicians, the relevant period is the time since becoming licensed to practice medicine.

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.

Application

Applications should be submitted directly to the DAAD, Section 521. The closing dates for applications for fellowships lasting more than 6 months are 15 November, 15 March and 15 June.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.auslands-stipendien.de
(in German only)





Head of a Max Planck Research Group at Max Planck Institutes

Requirements/Target group

Young, highly qualified scientists and researchers.

Programme description

The Max Planck Society offers gifted young scientists and researchers the chance to conduct 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).

Application

Calls for proposals are published in research journals and on institute websites.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.mpg.de/institutes



Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers

Requirements/Target group

Highly qualified foreign researchers in all disciplines who completed their doctorates less than 4 years ago.

Programme description

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 (2,250 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 may be submitted at any time.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html

Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers

Requirements/Target group

Highly qualified researchers in all disciplines from developing and emerging countries 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 choice. The research project must deal with development-related issues.

Support

Research fellowship (2,250 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 may be submitted at any time.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html

Sofja Kovalevskaja Award

Requirements/Target group

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

Programme description

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: 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.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html

Helmholtz Young Investigators Groups

Requirements/Target group

Excellent foreign or German postdocs/junior researchers who would like to participate in a Helmholtz programme 2 to 6 years after receiving their doctorate (periods of child care are taken into account); 6-month stay abroad (for Germans).

Programme description

Provides the best postdocs/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 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 academics.

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 1b/1a pay scale rate; salaries of scientific or technical staff (3 on average); expenses for materials, supplies and investments.

Duration

5 years with an evaluation after 3 to 4 years.

Application

Three-step selection process; next call: February 2012.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.helmholtz.de/yig

Leibniz-DAAD Research Fellowships

Requirements/Target group

Excellent, recently qualified international postdocs/junior researchers (no more than 2 years should have passed since completing their doctorate).

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 outstanding, recently qualified foreign postdocs/junior researchers the opportunity to conduct special research at one of the 87 institutes of the Leibniz Association in Germany.

Support

The grant includes a monthly sum of 1,840 euros, a monthly subsidy of 58 euros for health, accident and personal/private liability insurance in Germany (53 euros per month has to be covered by the fellowship holder); a 2-month German language course (if desired).

Duration

Up to a maximum of 12 months.

Application

Applications must be submitted to the DAAD.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.daad.de/leibniz



Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers

Requirements/Target group

Highly qualified German scholars and scientists of all disciplines who completed their doctorates less than 4 years ago.

Programme description

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, re-integration allowance, family allowances, return fellowship, integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship.

Duration

6 to 24 months.

Application

Applications may be submitted at any time.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html

Research Fellowship



Requirements/Target group

German researchers (or international researchers provided they have worked for at least 3 years as a doctoral or postdoctoral researcher in the German research system) of all disciplines who have earned a doctorate. The fellowship is granted for research stays outside Germany.

Programme description

Enables researchers early in their career to carry out a clearly defined research project at a place of their choice abroad or to become familiar 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.

Application

Proposals may be submitted at any time.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.dfg.de/en/research_fellowships

Helmholtz Postdoc Programme



Requirements/Target group

Highly qualified young scientists who have either gained their doctoral qualification in Germany or abroad within the past year (parental leave of up to 2 years) or are about to earn their degree.

Programme description

Enables talented young researchers to work independently on a research topic of their choice and establish themselves in their field of research. 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

2 to 3 years.

Application

Candidates should apply directly to one of the Helmholtz Centres. Applicants are selected by a committee of distinguished experts. The programme is issuing its first worldwide call for applications in spring 2012.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.helmholtz.de/postdoc

Re-invitation Programme

Requirements/Target group

Former recipients of DAAD research or study scholarships with a scholarship 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.

Programme description

Funding is provided for research or work projects at a state-run or state-recognised higher education institution or non-university research institute. Former scholarship holders who work outside the research sector can also apply for funding for a work stay at another business, administrative, cultural or media institution.

Support

In addition to a monthly scholarship payment that is dependent on academic status, 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

Applications should be submitted directly to the diplomatic or consular mission of the Federal Republic of Germany or to a DAAD office or information centre in the applicant's home country. Country-specific information, dates and deadlines: www.daad.de/stipendien/en.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.funding-guide.de



Research Stays

Requirements/Target group

Excellently qualified scientists with a doctorate. All applicants must work in a higher education institution or research institute in their home country.

Programme description

Enables foreign researchers at universities or research institutions to carry out a research project at a state-run or state-recognised higher education institution or non-university research institute.

Support

The amount of the monthly scholarship is dependent on academic status, and generally includes a travel expense allowance.

Duration

1 to 3 months.

Application

Applications should be submitted directly to the diplomatic or consular mission of the Federal Republic of Germany or to a DAAD office or information centre in the applicant's home country. Applications can not be accepted by the DAAD headquarters in Bonn. Country-specific information, dates and deadlines: www.daad.de/stipendien/en.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.funding-guide.de

Preparatory Measures for International Cooperation

Requirements/Target group

Exploratory activities for transnational collaborative research projects or institutional partnerships.

Programme description

This programme is aimed at German universities, non-university research institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), R&D clusters and networks for fact-finding actions and the preparation of projects, including feasibility and pilot studies, and funds cooperation in research and science with international partners.

Support

Grants usually cover accommodation costs for foreign experts visiting Germany and travel expenses

for German experts visiting partners abroad. In special cases costs can be covered for scientific workshops, smaller investments and consumables for feasibility studies as well as pilot investigations and personnel. In many cases, foreign funding organisations match International Bureau (IB) funding in accordance with bilateral agreements.

Duration

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

Application

Various calls for preparatory measures with different regional focuses are published each year. For detailed information on current calls for proposals, visit the IB website.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.internationales-buero.de/en



Initiation and Intensification of Bilateral Cooperation

Requirements/Target group

Scientists and scholars in the German research community who hold a PhD.

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 and event costs. Cost categories may 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 may be submitted at any time.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.dfg.de/en/bilateral_cooperation



Fraunhofer Attract

Requirements/Target group

Highly qualified scientists and researchers worldwide, preferably with postdoctoral experience, an outstanding scientific track record and a promising idea for industrial application.

Programme description

Offers substantial funding, both budget and recruiting responsibility, research in close cooperation with industry at state-of-the-art Fraunhofer laboratories as well as ideal prospects in science and business.

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. Submission only in close cooperation between the Fraunhofer Institute and the scientist.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.fraunhofer.de/en/jobs-career

Research Grants

Requirements/Target group

Qualified researchers (as a rule, those holding a doctorate) of all disciplines working at German research institutions.

Programme description

Enables scientists and academics to carry out a research project on a specifically defined topic within a limited period of time.

Support

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

Duration

The maximum initial funding duration is 3 years. Funding may be extended pending the acceptance of a renewal proposal.

Application

First proposal:
No submission deadlines;
proposal for extension:
At least 6 months before the approved funds have been exhausted.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.dfg.de/research_grants

Bilateral Exchange of Academics and Scientists

Requirements/Target group

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

Programme description

Supports research or study visits within the scope of the bilateral exchange of academics and scientists.

Support

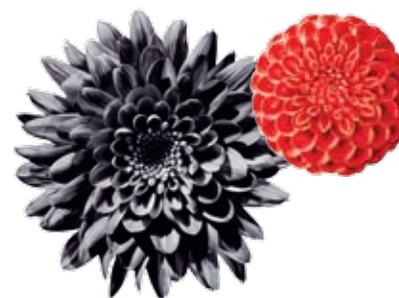
In the case of foreign academics, the partner institution pays the international travel costs and the DAAD pays a subsistence allowance. For German academics the DAAD pays a travel allowance and the partner institution pays a subsistence allowance.

Duration

2 weeks to 3 months.

Application

Country-specific information, dates and deadlines:
www.daad.de/stipendien/en.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.daad.de/bilateraler_wissenschaftlertausch
(in German only)

Fraunhofer Fellowship Programme PROF.x2

Requirements/Target group

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

Programme description

Funds working visits by senior researchers from the USA, China and 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, maximum 1 year if the collaboration meets strategic goals.

Application

Applications can only be submitted by Fraunhofer Institutes to the Fraunhofer headquarters in Munich.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.fraunhofer.de/en/jobs-career

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers

Requirements/Target group

Highly qualified, foreign scholars and scientists of all disciplines who completed their doctorates less than 12 years ago.

Programme description

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 (2,450 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, may be divided into a maximum of 3 blocks.

Application

Applications may be submitted at any time.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html

Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers

Requirements/Target group

Highly qualified scholars and scientists of all disciplines from Germany who completed their doctorates less than 12 years ago.

Programme description

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, re-integration allowance, family allowances, 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 3 blocks.

Application

Applications may be submitted at any time.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html

Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers

Requirements/Target group

Highly qualified scholars and scientists of all disciplines from developing and emerging countries 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 development-related issues.

Support

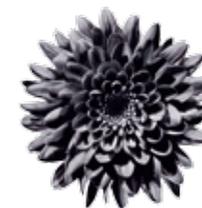
Research fellowship (2,450 euros per month), language fellowship, travel expenses, family allowances, integration into the worldwide, cross-disciplinary network of the Humboldt Foundation, extensive alumni sponsorship, allowance for research costs (for host institution).

Duration

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

Application

Applications may be submitted at any time.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html





Foreign Visiting Scientists at Max Planck Institutes

Requirements/Target group

Highly qualified foreign scientists.

Programme description

Enables foreign scientists to conduct independent research at a Max Planck Institute. The goal of this programme is to strengthen co-operation 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.

Application

Applications must be submitted to the respective host institute.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.mpg.de/institutes



Foreign Visiting Scientists at Leibniz Institutes

Requirements/Target group

Highly qualified foreign scientists.

Programme description

Allows senior researchers 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 at any time.

Application

Applications must be submitted directly to the respective Leibniz Institute.



MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the potential host
Leibniz Institute directly:
www.leibniz-association.eu

Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award

Requirements/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

Maximum of 12 months.

Application

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



MORE INFORMATION:

www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html

Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award

Requirements/Target group

Internationally renowned scientists and scholars of all disciplines 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.

Support

Award: 45,000 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.

Application

Nominations may be submitted by established academics in Germany at any time.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html



Humboldt Research Award

Requirements/Target group

Eminent foreign researchers of all disciplines 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 co-operating on a long-term research project with fellow experts at a research institute in Germany. The stay may be divided into blocks.

Support

Award: 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.

Application

Nominations may be submitted by established academics in Germany at any time.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html

Heisenberg Programme – Fellowship

Requirements/Target group

Habilitation or equivalent qualification that entitles holder to a professorship. High academic quality and originality of a research project at an international level and the potential for gaining further qualifications as a university teacher.

Programme description

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.

Support

Fellowship, travel allowances and, if applicable, allowances for accommodation abroad, publication funding. The standard fellowship award provides 4,450 euros per month.

Duration

Maximum of 5 years.

Application

Proposals may be submitted at any time.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.dfg.de/heisenberg/en

Heisenberg Programme – Professorship

Requirements/Target group

Habilitation or equivalent qualification that entitles holder to a professorship. In addition to successfully taking part in the DFG's review process, 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

Offers excellent researchers the reliable prospect of a professorship.

Support

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

Duration

Maximum of 5 years.

Application

Proposals may be submitted at any time.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.dfg.de/heisenberg/en

Alexander von Humboldt Professorship

Requirements/Target group

Scholars and scientists 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 co-operation with non-university research institutes – the opportunity 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. 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.

Application

Applications should be submitted by German universities. Non-university research institutes may also submit joint nominations with German universities. 2 selection rounds per year.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/programmes.html





Marie Curie Initial Training Networks

Requirements/Target group

Doctoral students or young postdoctoral researchers within the framework of a research project.

Programme description

Provides 4 years of funding to international research networks of universities, research institutes and enterprises to provide structured training for postdocs/junior researchers. Each ITN must be comprised of at least 3 institutions in the EU or associated states and involve industrial partners. In 2011, two new implementation modes were established under the ITN Action: European Industrial Doctorates and Innovative Doctoral Programmes.

Support

Funding covers the salaries of the postdocs/junior researchers, the coordination/management costs, as well as the indirect costs of the participating institutions. Junior researchers must be employed on a full-time basis and receive a level of remuneration prescribed by the European Commission.

Duration

Between 3 months and 3 years.

Application

Networks must submit online applications to the European Commission using the Electronic Proposal Submission System within the prescribed submission dates. PhD students and postdoctoral researchers must submit applications to the individual projects.

MORE INFORMATION:

National Liaison Office Mobility at the
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation:
www.humboldt-foundation.de/nks/itn.html;
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/mariecurieactions/itn_en.html



Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates Erasmus Mundus Mobility Partnerships

Requirements/Target group

Candidates from bachelor's to postdoctoral levels depending on the programme and project. Scholarships can also be awarded to researchers and university staff from European and non-European countries. Details and application requirements can be found in the respective project description.

Programme description

Erasmus Mundus Action 1 funds international courses at master's and doctoral level. The study programmes must be offered jointly by at least 3 European higher education institutions. All courses must include at least 2 mobility phases within Europe and award a double or joint degree.
Erasmus Mundus Action 2 funds mobility networks in which at least

five European higher education institutions cooperate with higher education institutions from selected non-European countries, which are grouped in target regions.

Support

The European Commission provides funding for scholarships for the selected courses and projects.

Duration

Action 1 awards scholarships for 1- or 2-year EMMC programmes and 3 years for EMJD programmes. Action 2 scholarships are awarded for different periods (3 months to 3 years).

Application

Application and selection procedures are conducted by the coordinating higher education institutions.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.study-in-europe.org
> Testimonials





Starting Independent Researcher Grants

Requirements/Target group

Junior researchers of any nationality who completed their doctorates at least 2 and no more than 12 years ago (in justified cases, up to 16.5 years). The research project must be carried out at a research institute in the European Union or an associated state.

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.

Support

Research projects can receive up to 2 million euros in funding.

Duration

Up to 5 years.

Application

Researchers of all nationalities who have completed a doctorate and are still at the beginning of an independent research career are entitled to submit applications following consultation with the host institution. ERC Starting Grants are advertised annually in summer with submission deadlines in the autumn.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.erc-germany.de



Marie Curie Individual Fellowships – Intra-European Fellowships

Requirements/Target group

Experienced junior researchers who completed a doctorate or have gained at least 4 years of full-time research experience after graduation. The mobility rule of the Marie Curie Actions applies: applications are not possible with an institution in a country where the researcher has already been resident or worked for more than 12 months in the 3 years before the final submission date.

Programme description

Finances a research project at a research institution in Germany (or another EU member country or associated state) with the goal of supporting experienced researchers by enhancing their qualifications and diversifying their specialist competences.

Support

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

Duration

1 to 2 years.

Application

Applications must be submitted jointly with a host institution online to the European Commission using the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS) within the prescribed submission dates.

MORE INFORMATION:

National Liaison Office Mobility at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation:
www.humboldt-foundation.de/nks/ief.html (in German only)
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/mariecurieactions/ief_en.html



Advanced Investigator Grants

Requirements/Target group

Researchers who have demonstrated outstanding research achievements, especially in the last 10 years. The research project must be carried out at a research institute in the European Union or an associated state.

Programme description

Funds a research project in all research disciplines.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.erc-germany.de



Synergy Grants

Requirements/Target group

2 to 4 outstanding researchers and their teams who wish to conduct research on a groundbreaking subject (preferably) at one location. The research project must be carried out at a research institute in the European Union or an associated state.

Programme description

Funds a major research project that is only possible in a special group consisting of 2 to 4 outstanding researchers. The programme is open to all fields of research and interdisciplinary projects are especially welcome.

Support

Research projects can receive up to 15 million euros of funding.

Duration

Up to 6 years.

Application

Outstanding researchers of all nationalities are entitled to submit applications with the host institution. ERC Grants are advertised once a year.



MORE INFORMATION:

www.erc-germany.de

All Funding Programmes

(Listed by Funding Organisation)

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Humboldt Foundation)

Alexander von Humboldt Professorship.....	55
Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers.....	46
Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers.....	34
Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award.....	51
Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers.....	47
Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers.....	30
Humboldt Research Award.....	52
Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers.....	45
Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers.....	29
Sofja Kovalevskaja Award.....	31

European Funding Programmes

Advanced Investigator Grants.....	60
Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses (EMMC), Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates (EMJD), Erasmus Mundus Mobility Partnerships.....	57
Marie Curie Individual Fellowships – Intra-European Fellowships.....	59
Marie Curie Initial Training Networks.....	56
Starting Independent Researcher Grants.....	58
Synergy Grants.....	61

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft

Fraunhofer Attract.....	41
Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award.....	50
Fraunhofer Fellowship Programme PROF.x2.....	44
Individual Doctoral Projects at Fraunhofer Institutes.....	18

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Bilateral Exchange of Academics and Scientists.....	43
Bilateral Programme for Cooperative Research Grants/PPP.....	12
Leibniz-DAAD Research Fellowships.....	33
Postdoctoral Programme.....	27
Practical Traineeships/IAESTE Programme.....	11
Re-integration of German Scientists from Abroad.....	22
Re-invitation Programme.....	37

Research Fellowships in Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research (DLR, DAAD).....	21
Research Grants.....	23
Research Stays.....	38
Study Scholarships.....	10
Study Visits/Study Seminars and Practicals.....	8
University Summer Courses.....	9

German Research Foundation (DFG)

Collaborative Research Centres.....	24
Emmy Noether Programme.....	26
Graduate Schools.....	20
Heisenberg Programme – Fellowship.....	53
Heisenberg Programme – Professorship.....	54
Initiation and Intensification of Bilateral Cooperation.....	40
Research Fellowship.....	35
Research Training Groups.....	19
Research Grants.....	42

Helmholtz Association

Helmholtz Postdoc Programme.....	36
Helmholtz Young Investigators Groups.....	32
Individual Dissertation at Helmholtz Centres.....	14
International Helmholtz Research Schools and Graduate Schools.....	13

International Bureau of the BMBF (IB)

Preparatory Measures for International Cooperation.....	39
---	----

Leibniz Association

Foreign Visiting Scientists at Leibniz Institutes.....	49
Leibniz-DAAD Research Fellowships.....	33
Leibniz Graduate Schools.....	16

Max Planck Society (MPG)

Foreign Visiting Scientists at Max Planck Institutes (MPG).....	48
Head of a Max Planck Research Group at Max Planck Institutes.....	28
Individual Doctoral Projects at Max Planck Institutes.....	17
International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS).....	15
Max Planck Grants for Advanced Postdoctoral Training.....	25

Useful Links

Research in Germany

The Internet portal 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

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

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

Deutschland Portal – Grants and Scholarships

This website contains an alphabetical list of organisations and agencies that offer grants and scholarships in Germany.

www.deutschland.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, 480 foundations, business associations and individuals. This website provides a search engine for research grants and other funding opportunities offered by more than 450 foundations.

www.stifterverband.info

> Stiftungen & Stifter > Förderung (in German only)

European Funding Programmes

The European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi) helps you to find your way through the European funding jungle. Under the heading “Young Scientists” you will find detailed information on funding programmes for young researchers.

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 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 available at

www.research-in-germany.de/downloads:

- “Discover the Future of Research.now – Germany – Europe’s leader in Science”
- “FAQ – Preparing your research stay in Germany”
- “FAQ – Doing a doctorate in Germany”
- “The German Research Landscape – Who does research in Germany?”
- “Welcome to Nanotech Germany”
- “Keeping the Blue Planet Green”

We hope that our brochures will provide you orientation for pursuing a career in the German research sector. For more information about Research in Germany, please visit our website

www.research-in-germany.de

and subscribe to our bimonthly newsletter

www.research-in-germany.de/newsletter



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Research in
Germany



Land of Ideas

