



Programme information

Overcoming the pandemic with science – sponsorship of Humboldt Research Hubs in Africa

Programme

As part of its alumni programme, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation promotes the strengthening of research capacities in transition and developing countries and the long-term networking of alumni in these countries with researchers in Germany.

The financing of Humboldt Research Hubs in Africa is an instrument of alumni sponsorship that aims to allow alumni of Humboldt Foundation sponsorship programmes working in leading academic positions at African universities and research institutions to conduct long-term research concepts with particular relevance to overcoming pandemics. As part of this sponsorship, alumni will choose collaborative partners in Germany. Alumni may also choose to integrate a further collaborative partner who works in a leading academic position in an African country. The aim is to engage alumni in successful international cooperation as heads of Humboldt Research Hubs and invite these to partner institutions in Germany to conduct their research concepts. As part of mutual exchange activities, junior researchers will also be integrated as potential applicants for one of the Humboldt Foundation's research fellowships. Established junior researchers may also be integrated into the leadership of a Humboldt Research Hub.

Using funding from the Federal Foreign Office, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will initially sponsor five Humboldt Research Hubs in Africa, starting in 2021.

Funding measures, funding amount and funding period

The Humboldt Research Hub funding is for a fixed term of five years with a total funding amount of up to €750,000. Funding of the third and fourth year will be granted following a positive interim assessment which will take place in the third year of funding.

The head of the Humboldt Research Hub must use the funding amount for the purposes of conducting the research concept with particular relevance for overcoming pandemics, at the Humboldt Research Hub in Africa and in cooperation with partner institutions in Germany and, if applicable, Africa. The funding amount may be used to cover all expenses for this purpose, especially the following expense types. Given annual maximum amounts of expense types must not be exceeded. Apart from that, applicants are free to shape the financial plan according to individual requirements:

- **Management costs:** up to €10,000 per year.
- **Research stays for the head of the Humboldt Research Hub at the relevant partner institution in Germany:** up to €10,000 per year. Up to €3,000 per month may be used to cover living expenses for the head of the Humboldt Research Hub; the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Fellowship Guidelines, as amended, apply.
- **Financing of reciprocal stays for junior researchers and collaborative partners from Africa and Germany; employment of junior researchers at the Research Hub; conducting mutual workshops and conferences etc.:** as part of the available funding amount without an annual limit.
- **Financing of scientific equipment and consumables:** up to €50,000 per year.
- **Salary supplements for the head of the Humboldt Research Hub and collaborative partners in leading academic positions at African institutions:** up to €50,000 per year – taking into consideration the relevant applicable statutory and (non-)collective and/or salary-related regulations and in consultation with the respective home institution.

Funding recipient:

- The funding recipient is the head of the Humboldt Research Hub (=alumnus/alumna of one of the Humboldt Foundation's sponsorship programmes). The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation expects the funding recipient's home institution in the respective African country to take on fiduciary responsibility for the administration of the funding amount in the name of and on behalf of the funding recipient.

Application requirements

- Applicants must be alumni of one of the Humboldt Foundation's sponsorship programmes in a leading academic position (usually Full Professor or equivalent) at a university or research institution in an African country.
- A collaborative partner at a research institution in Germany must be integrated.
- A further collaborative partner from another research institution/university in an African country working in a leading academic position may also be integrated.

Application procedure

Complete applications must be submitted via e-Mail [h-rh\[at\]avh.de](mailto:h-rh[at]avh.de) to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The deadline for submitting applications is **17 January 2021**.

Please refer to the programme information when completing your application. You will find answers to frequently asked questions (incl. information relating to your application) on the Humboldt Foundation [Website](#).

The [Regulations on the Use of Funds](#) and [Rules of Good Scientific Practice](#) also apply for the application and sponsorship process.

The **applicant** must attach the following documents to the [application form](#):

- A **financial plan** that shows a year-by-year breakdown of what resources are required for what expense type ([form](#)) incl. explanations
- A **detailed research concept for the planned Humboldt Research Hub**
- A tabulated **curriculum vitae and list of the applicant's publications** from the past five years
- A **(Junior) Researcher Declaration** ([form](#)) for all collaborative partners and all (junior) researchers integrated into the Humboldt Research Hub (where already known)
- **Statements from the directors** of the institutions involved

Complete applications will undergo an independent review followed by submission to a Selection Committee, consisting of leading qualified experts with significant experience of collaboration with Africa, for a final decision. The decision on applications is made within four to six months.

Criteria for approval:

- The academic quality and originality, as well as the relevance, of the research concept for overcoming pandemics and their effects
- The academic qualifications of the applicant and collaborative partners, as well as their experience with successful international cooperation
- The applicant's proven academic qualifications as a leader and mentor
- The suitability of the research concept for the long-term strengthening of research capacities in Africa
- The sustainability of the academic collaboration on equal terms
- The planning set out in the application in relation to the integration of qualified junior researchers
- The appropriateness of the requested funding amount, as well as the appropriateness of the requested funding measures for realising the research concept