



Maternity leave: extension of the fellowship

If a baby is born to a research fellow during the sponsorship period, the mother may submit a written application to extend the period approved for sponsorship by up to 3 months, in line with statutory maternity rights. It is also possible to extend the sponsorship period if the research fellowship comes to an end during statutory maternity leave (usually 6 weeks prior to and 8 weeks after birth). A medical certificate confirming the pregnancy and stating the expected date of birth as well as the academic host's confirmation of research facilities and mentoring agreement are required to process this application. After the child is born, a digital copy (as a scan, for example) of the birth certificate must be submitted. The Foundation reserves the right to request a certified copy (or original version) of the birth certificate.

If you do not intend to spend your maternity leave in Germany, an application for a stay outside Germany must be submitted (see A.1.11.).

The [online application form](#) is available on the Foundation's website.

Parenthood: interruption of the research fellowship

A research fellow may submit a written application (no specific form required) to interrupt the research fellowship for up to 18 months if a baby is due to be born or if the research fellow (male or female) is responsible for caring for a child under the age of 12 during the sponsorship period. A written statement from the academic host must be submitted confirming that the object of the fellowship is not endangered.

The decision regarding a long-term interruption depends on the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's financial plans. The period between the start of the first and the end of the last stay in Germany must not exceed 48 months as a rule.

The application must be submitted informally by email, 4 weeks in advance if possible.