



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation - Connecting excellent researchers worldwide

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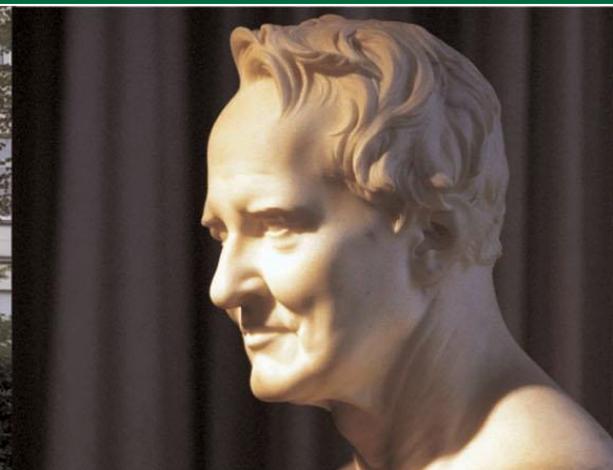
Subjects of presentation

- The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation - **Facts and Figures**
- **Research Location Germany** – Why should you go there?
- Our portfolio – **Sponsorship Opportunities** offered by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- Once a Humboldtian, always a Humboldtian: **Alumni sponsorship instruments**
- **Finding a scientific host** in Germany
- **The Humboldt Network** – the added value of our sponsorship



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The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation - Facts and Figures





Core activity of the Humboldt Foundation

- We grant annually about 600 research fellowships and 100 research awards to highly qualified researchers (PhD-holders) from all over the world
- We enable them to spend extended research stays in Germany and to work with German colleagues
- We offer life long sponsorship options for our Alumni (“Once a Humboldtian, always a Humboldtian”)
- **Sponsorship of people, not projects**



Humboldt Foundation and DAAD - Sharing the academic market



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- The Humboldt Foundation sponsors **PhD holders (outgoing programmes)**
- The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) sponsors BA/MA/doctoral students (outgoing and in-country programmes)
Office in Nairobi: nairobi.daad.de



History of the Humboldt Foundation

- 1953: establishment of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- Namesake: Alexander von Humboldt (1769 - 1859): discoverer, universal scholar, cosmopolitan, humanist and patron of excellent scientific talent
- Role model for our work: connecting excellent researchers worldwide at eye level
- 26.000 Humboldtians worldwide
- 50 Nobel Prize Winners





Equal opportunities for female academics

- Sponsoring of women correlates with age, career stage and geographical origin
- Research fellowship programmes: average of 30% (2010-2014), comparable success rates of women and men
- measures supplementing standard sponsorship opportunities: fellowship extension or interruption, allowances, targeted counselling

Goal: Increasing number of female academics among sponsored

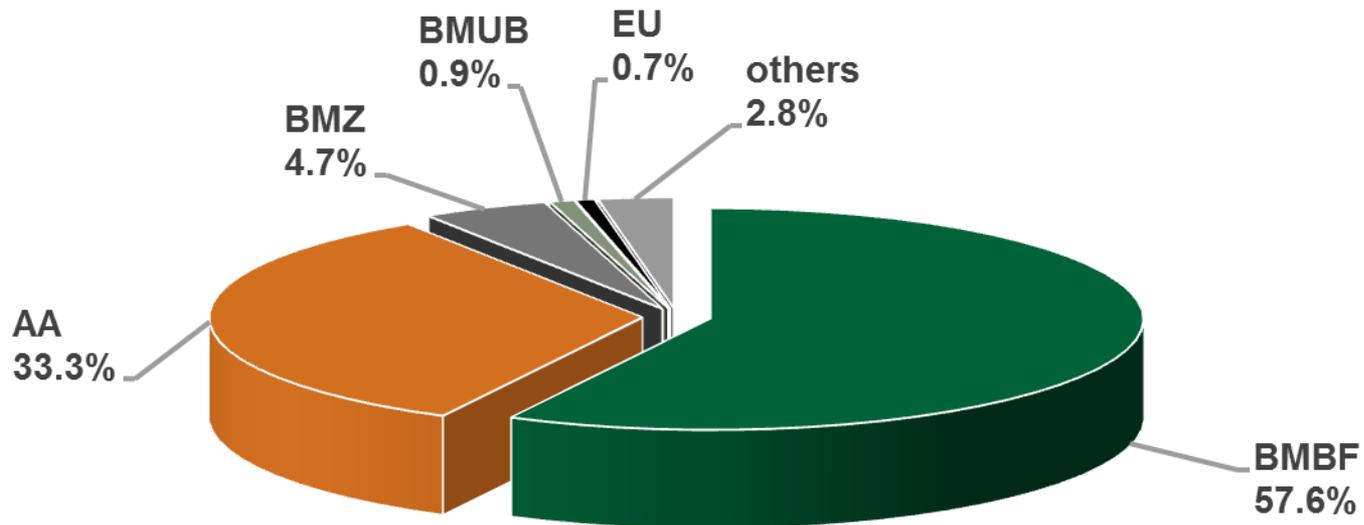




The Humboldt Foundation's funding

Budget for 2014: approx. 110.5 million EUR

Financed by federal funds and the European Union: approx. 97%



AA: Federal Foreign Office

BMBF: Federal Ministry of Education and Research

BMZ: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

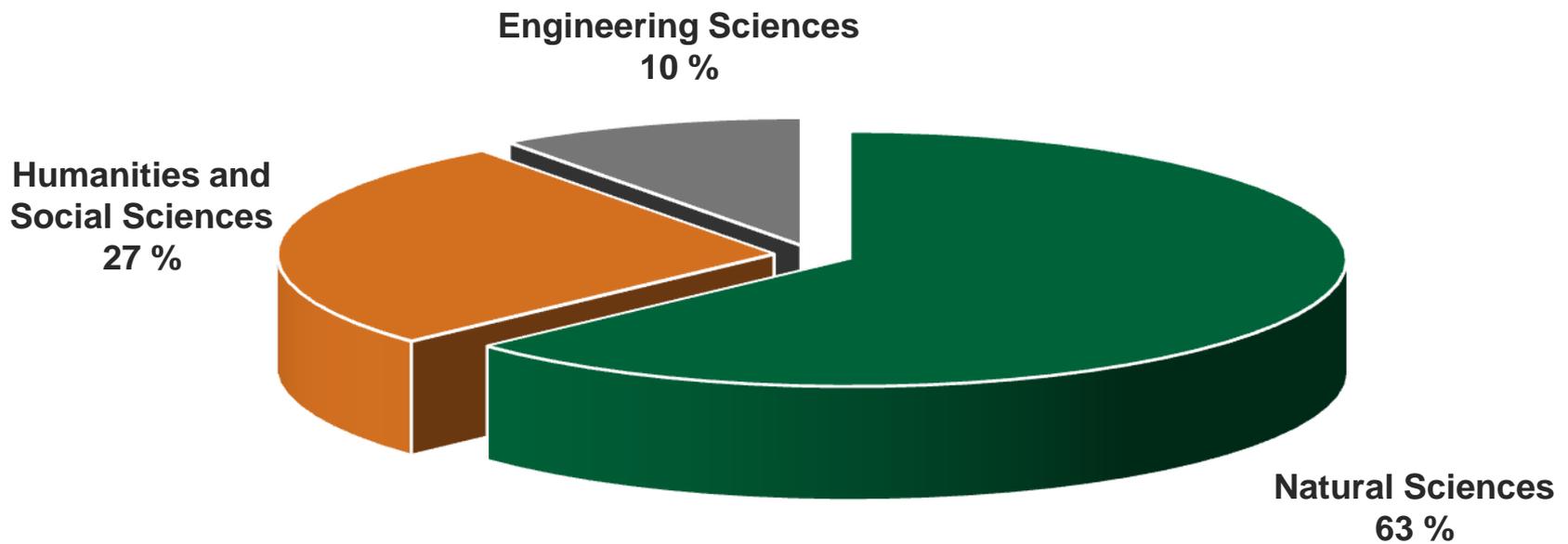
BMUB: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety



Disciplines of guest researchers

2010–2014:

2,805 research fellowships granted to academics from abroad

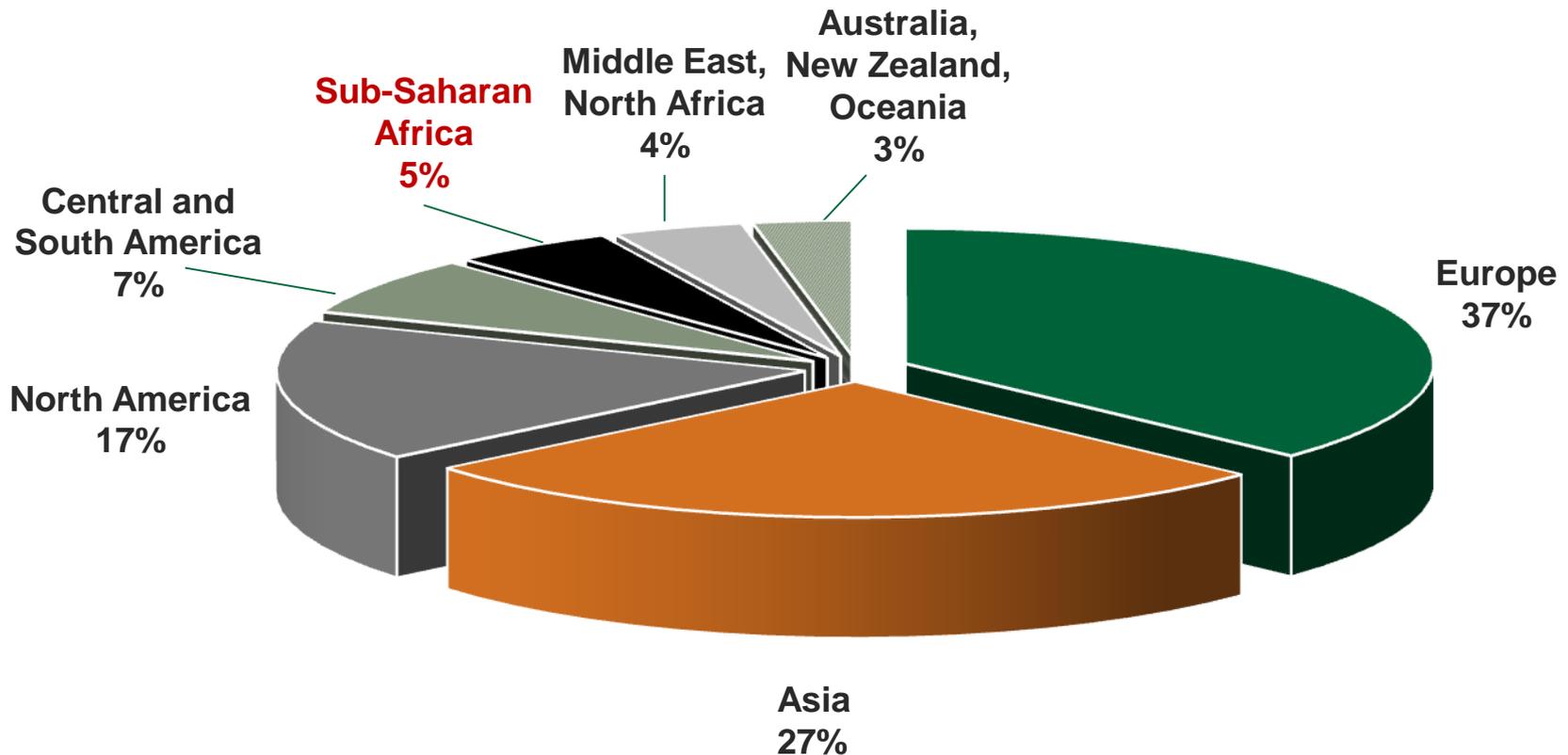




Origin of guest researchers

2010–2014:

2,805 research fellowships granted to academics from abroad



Current figures for Sub-Saharan Africa and Kenya



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- Sub-Saharan Africa 2010 to 2014:
391 applications, 131 Research fellowships granted
(Success rate: 30%, worldwide: 28,5%)
- Kenya: 20 applications, 5 Research fellowships granted
(Success rate: 25%)
- Our conclusion: We do not reach enough excellent possible candidates in Kenya
- Our goal: Attracting more highly qualified researchers (women and men) from Kenya
- Essential step: Cooperation with strong partners (e.g. MoUs with NACOSTI, ICIPE, TWAS)



Research Location Germany – Why should you go there?





A wide range of research institutions

- approximately 100 **universities**: research in all disciplines
- 82 **Max Planck Institutes**: basic research, especially in the natural and biosciences but also in the humanities and social sciences
- 67 **Fraunhofer Institutes**: applied research
- 18 **Helmholtz Centres**: technical-scientific and biomedical research
- 89 **Leibniz Institutes**: research in all disciplines ranging from knowledge-oriented basic research to applied research

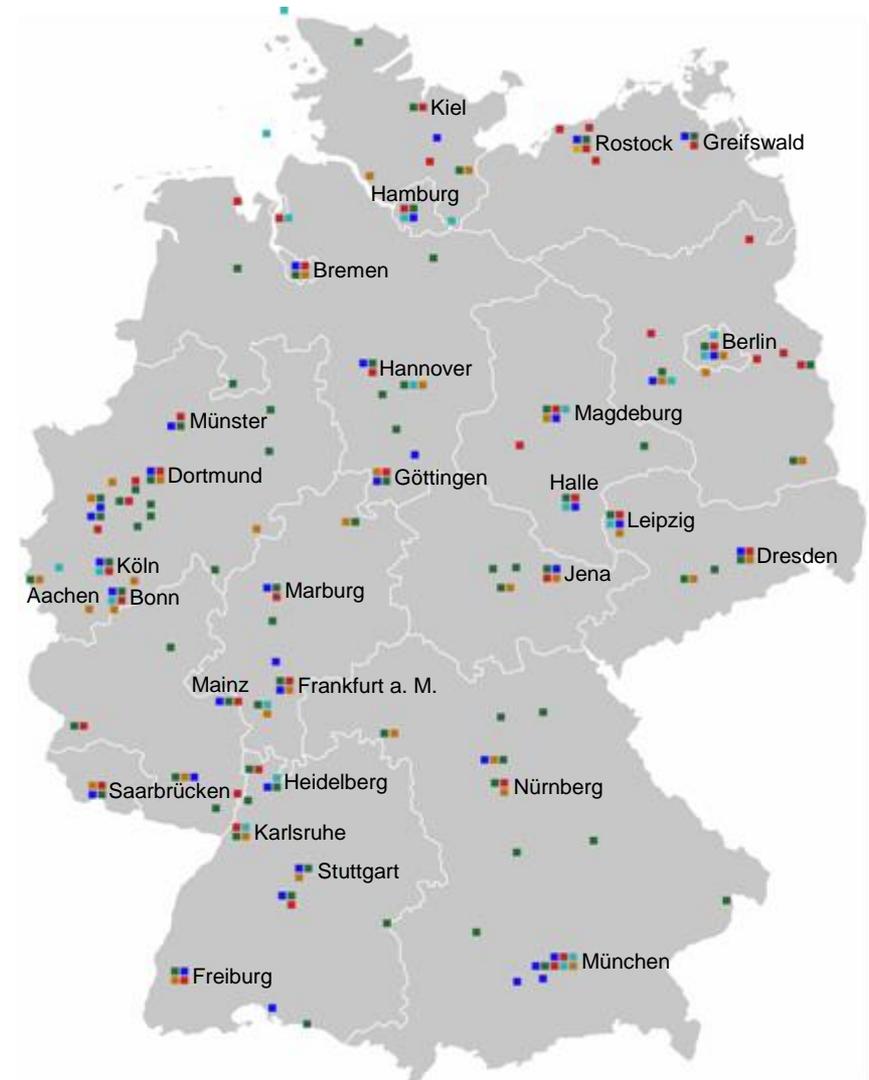


Germany – a country full of attractive research institutions



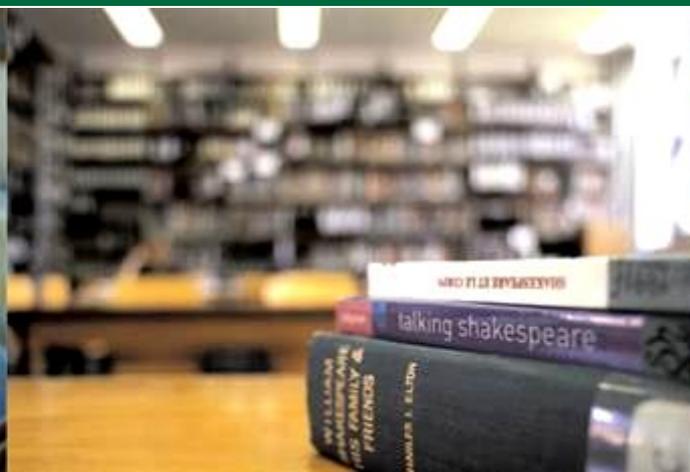
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- Universities
- Leibniz Institutes
- Max Planck Institutes
- Helmholtz Centres
- Fraunhofer Institutes





Our programme portfolio – Sponsorship Opportunities offered by the Humboldt Foundation





Key sponsorship programmes at a glance

	Academics from abroad	Academics from Germany
Postdoctoral researchers (up to 4 years after completion of doctorate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Humboldt Research Fellowship● Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship
Junior research group leaders (up to 6 years after completion of doctorate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sofja Kovalevskaja Award	
Experienced researchers (up to 12 years after completion of doctorate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Humboldt Research Fellowship● Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship
Experienced researchers (up to 18 years after completion of doctorate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award	
Internationally renowned academics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Humboldt Research Award● Georg Forster Research Award● Anneliese Maier Research Award● Max Planck Research Award● Alexander von Humboldt Professorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Max Planck Research Award

Research fellowships for research stays in Germany

For postdoctoral and experienced researchers

Humboldt Research Fellowship

- worldwide, all disciplines, no quotas for countries
- Success rate of applicants from Sub-Saharan Africa 2010-2014: **24%** (total: 29%)

Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES)

- researchers from emerging and developing countries (except China and India), all disciplines, no quotas for countries
- research projects with relevance to development of the applicant's home country
- Success rate of applicants from Sub-Saharan Africa 2010-2014: **36%** (total: 31%)

Research fellowships for research stays in Germany

Humboldt Research Fellowship / Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES)

	Postdoctoral researchers	Experienced researchers
Application period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● doctorates completed less than 4 years ago	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● doctorates completed less than 12 years ago
Duration of sponsorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 6 to 24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 6 to 18 months, may be divided up into 3 stays
Fellowship amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2,650 EUR per month (plus additional benefits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 3,150 EUR per month (plus additional benefits)



Application requirements

Postdoctoral researchers

- above average doctorate
- academic publications

Experienced researchers

- independent academic activity, e.g. as an assistant professor
- comprehensive list of academic publications with own, clearly defined academic profile

- agreement by scientific host in Germany
- Expert reviews from the doctoral supervisor and two other academics
- independent research project
- knowledge of English and/or German



Application procedure

- applications at any time to the Foundation directly
- assessment by independent expert reviewers
- decision by independent, interdisciplinary selection committees
- duration of procedure: approximately 4 to 7 months





Application procedure

Criteria for assessing eligibility:

- Academic record and academic performance to date (determination, academic productivity, mobility *experienced researchers*: breadth of research activities)
- Quality of publications (originality, degree of innovation)
- Originality and innovation potential of the suggested research outline (significance for the discipline, choice of academic methods, clear focus and feasibility)
- The applicant's future academic potential

The selection committee will always take into consideration the “whole picture” – > People, not projects



Benefits provided

- Travel lump sum
- Mobility allowance, subsidies towards health and liability assurances
- Language courses (e.g. intensive language course of 2 or 4 months in Germany)
- Benefits for accompanying families
- Allowance for research costs for the host institute
- Possibility of Europe research stay





Further benefits provided

- Intensive and individual mentoring in Germany and abroad by personal contacts at the Humboldt Foundation
- Study tour through Germany, network meeting, Annual meeting in Berlin
- Return fellowships (12 months, 500 € per month)
- Alumni sponsorship





Once a Humboldtian, always a Humboldtian: Alumni sponsorship instruments





Alumni sponsorship instruments I

Coming back to Germany (3 years after your first research stay)

- **Short visits up to 30 days**
 - e.g. for active participation (lecture, posters, etc.) in international congresses in Germany, for lecture tours or short working visits to research institutes in Germany.
 - Daily allowance, reimbursement of conference fees
- **Renewed research stays for up to 3 months**
 - for continuing or completing work started during first research stay in Germany or initiation of new joint research projects with colleagues in Germany, free choice of academic host
 - Monthly fellowship amount, support for accompanying family



Alumni Sponsorship Instruments II

Support for alumni in their home countries

- Invitation of professors from Germany for short research stays at the home institution of Humboldtian
- Book donations
- Equipment subsidies (up to 20,000 EUR)
- Humboldt Kollegs (up to 40,000 EUR)





Alumni Sponsorship Instruments III

Support for cooperative projects

- **Research group linkage programme**

„Institutional“ partnership between a Humboldtian and a German partner for working on a joint research project

Goals:

- building of sustainable scientific partnerships
- integration of junior researchers

Funding of up to 55.000 €, up to 3 years, to be spent on:

- academic auxiliary staff
- equipment (for the partner institute outside Germany)
- conferences
- reciprocal research visits
- publications and consumables



Finding a scientific host in Germany





Finding a scientific host in Germany

- Search interesting publications
- Ask colleagues with contacts in Germany (e.g. Humboldtians at your institute)
- Search the Humboldt Foundation's Network Online
 - Network Online can be used to locate Humboldtians' host institutes
 - searches can be filtered by subject area, location or keyword
humboldt-foundation.de -> Humboldt Network -> Searching the network
- Search via the DAAD and DFG "Research Explorer"
 - The Research Explorer contains over 23,000 institutes at German universities and non-university research institutions, searchable by geographic location, subject and other structural criteria.
www.research-explorer.de



Finding a scientific host in Germany

Checklist for establishing a contact via E-Mail:

- How can I introduce myself very shortly?
- What is the core of my research interest?
- Why do I want to work with that particular person?
- Who has recommended the person I write to, or: How did I find out about the work of the academic I am contacting?
- Which funding organisation and which programme do I suggest?



Finding a scientific host in Germany

Further practical hints

- Add a very short research outline (1 page) and your updated CV
- Be clear and short: Professors usually get more than 100 E-Mails each day!
- Do not send the same not personalized E-Mail to dozens of academics!
- If you don't get an answer within a fortnight, send a short reminder – some people only answer if they are asked twice...

**Make sure that the academic you contact
realizes:**



I want **YOU to be
my scientific
host!**



Finding a scientific host in Germany

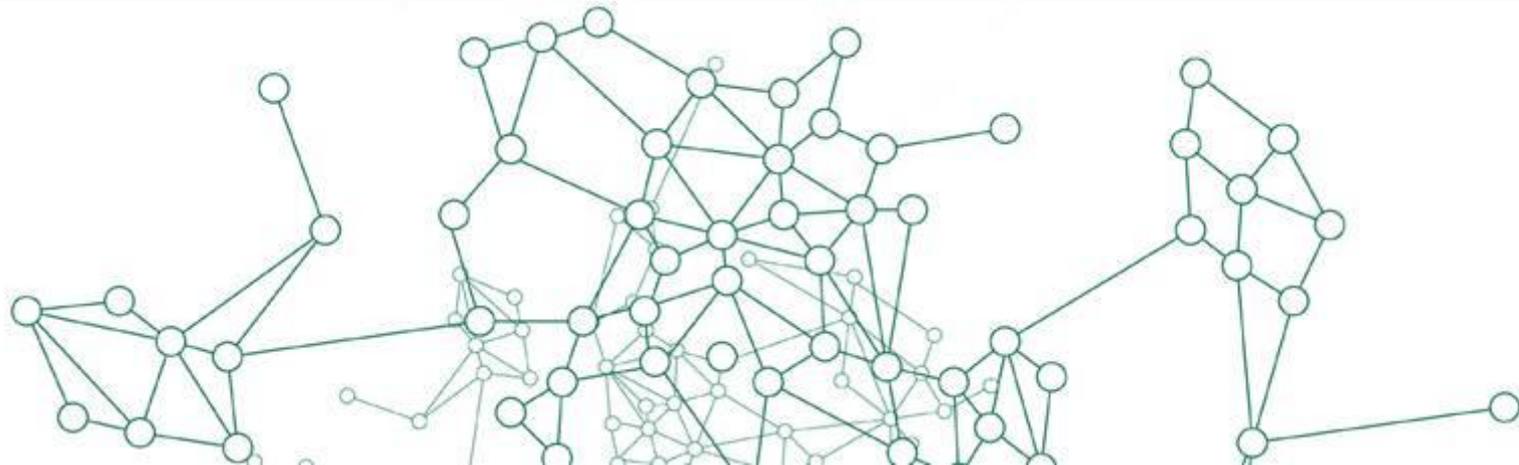
Goal! You've got a positive answer!

Now you should:

- Make good use of his/her expertise for further elaborating your research outline
- Enrich your knowledge about the research institution of your potential scientific host
- Take your time for carefully preparing your application and all the documents needed



The Humboldt Network – the added value of our sponsorship



The Humboldt Network – more than 26,000 Humboldtians worldwide

Result of a representative survey within the Humboldt Network (2014):

- Working, self-supporting network
- 78% of Humboldtians have scientific contacts with at least one other Humboldtian



as of: January 2015

6 out of 26,000



Kayode O. Adebawale,
Nigeria
Kwame Nkrumah Continental
Scientific Award for Science
and Technology (2014)



Ernest J. Moniz, USA,
Secretary of Energy, U.S.
Department of Energy
(2013)



Eva Illouz, Israel,
President, Bezalel
Academy of Arts
(2012)



Yesid Reyes Alvarado,
Colombia,
Minister of Justice and Law
(2014)



James E. Rothman, USA
Nobel Prize in Physiology /
Medicine (2013)



Enge Wang, China,
President, Peking University
(2013)

Ambassador Scientists in Africa and Middle East



Kenya:

Prof. Hamadi I.
Boga

Jomo Kenyatta
University of
Agriculture and
Technology

- Cameroon
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- South Africa



Contact

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is available to answer your questions at any time:

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