



Programme Information

NSTC (Taiwan) Research Fellowships for German researchers

The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Taiwan - formerly Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Taiwan – offers a programme through which German researchers in any discipline who completed their doctorates no more than twelve years ago may apply for a research stay of three to 12 months in Taiwan. It is possible to extend the duration of the fellowship to a total of three years. The total duration of the research fellowship may not be broken up into shorter periods. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will conduct the pre-selection in Germany. Applications may be submitted to the Humboldt Foundation at any time.

NSTC (Taiwan) funds the recipient's stay at a university or non-university research institute in Taiwan. Any researcher or scholar in Taiwan who has received project funding through the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Taiwan, is eligible to serve as a host. Applicants choose their own topic of research and their host in Taiwan and prepare their research outline independently. Details of the research outline including information on the intended duration of the fellowship must be agreed with the intended host before applying.

Candidates are selected solely on the basis of their academic qualification. They are assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- Academic record and academic performance to date (mobility, determination, breadth of research activities, academic productivity)
- Quality of key publications specified in the application (originality, degree of innovation, applicant's contribution in cases of multiple authorship)
- Originality and innovation potential of the suggested research outline (significance for the advancement of the discipline, convincing choice of academic methods, prospects for academic development of the applicant, clear focus and feasibility of realization within the requested funding period and at the chosen host institution)
- The applicant's future potential (academic potential, further academic development, career prospects)

Applications are assessed on the basis of independent peer reviews requested by the Humboldt Foundation. The pre-selection undertaken in Germany must be confirmed by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) of Taiwan. This process is conducted by a selection committee comprised of researchers from all disciplines. The selection committee meets three times a year.

A stay abroad in the framework of the Humboldt Foundation's research fellowships for German junior researchers does not count towards the so-called "Twelve-Year Rule" in the University Framework Law.

Fellowship specifications

The fellowship consists of a monthly grant of NTD 85,000. Once the fellowship has ended, NSTC (Taiwan) research fellows who were selected by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and have returned to Germany are eligible for various alumni sponsorship options which the Humboldt Foundation offers fellows from Germany.

Additional assistance provided by the Humboldt Foundation:

- **Reintegration allowance** for attending job interviews or participating in important career-promoting conferences in Germany.
- A **return fellowship** may be granted for a maximum of twelve months immediately following the research stay abroad. It allows fellows to continue cooperation with their hosts in association with a research institution in Germany.
- **Alumni sponsorship** following a successful stay abroad, especially financial assistance for participating in conferences and for short-term visits from or to members of the Humboldt Network abroad (or in Germany when living abroad).

For further information, please refer to the [Guidelines and Information for Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships](#). The Humboldt Foundation assumes that candidates will abide the [Rules of Good Scientific Practice](#) and the legally binding principles of scientific ethics during the application and sponsorship periods.

Application requirements

1. **Doctorate**, completed less than 12 years prior to the date of application. Candidates who have nearly completed their doctoral degrees are eligible to apply provided that they submit the manuscript of their dissertation or publications containing the results of their dissertation;
2. **Academic publications** reviewed according to international standards and printed in journals and/or by publishing houses;
3. **Expert reviews** from the doctoral supervisor and one other academic qualified to provide information regarding the applicant's qualifications, preferably reviewers not working at the applicant's own institute.
4. Necessary **language skills**: Good knowledge of the language spoken in the host country or at least a very good knowledge of English.
5. **Confirmation that research facilities are available** and a **detailed expert's statement** from an academic host at a research institution in Taiwan. Upon request, the Humboldt Foundation will confirm whether the prospective host receives funding from NSTC (Taiwan).

Application and selection procedure

Applications may only be submitted online. The completed application form, including the necessary additional documents, should be submitted at least four to seven months ahead of the prospective selection date. The selection committee meets every year in February, June and October.

Visit the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's website for further information on the [online application](#) process and all necessary documents as well as access to the online application system. Confirmation of receipt will be issued after the application has been submitted.

The expert reviews and the host's confidential statement must be uploaded by their authors directly to the applicant's online application form. The applicant will send the link needed to access the application form via email to the designated persons. It is only possible to submit the application once all documents have been uploaded completely.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their documents are complete. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection procedure.

After checking the documents, applicants will be notified about the proposed selection date. The application documents will then usually be forwarded to two independent reviewers for written review. On the basis of these independent peer reviews an interdisciplinary selection committee composed of about 20 academics reaches a decision on approving research fellowships.

After a negative selection decision, candidates may apply informally by email to be informed about the factors which led to a rejection. When an applicant wishes, they and their host will be sent a letter containing this information – independently of the notification regarding the outcome of the selection procedure – approximately four to six weeks after the selection committee has taken its decision. It is not possible to appeal. However, applicants who have been rejected may submit a revised application provided that fundamental aspects of the original application have been significantly improved.

Further information on the selection procedure can be found in the [Questions & Answers](#) on the Humboldt Foundation's website as well as in the application form.