

# Exzellenz verbindet – be part of a worldwide network

Networks of Excellence:  
Programmes and Initiatives  
for Jordan

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Secretary General  
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

3 December 2013





Alexander von Humboldt  
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# The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Connecting academic excellence worldwide

Knowledge transfer and cooperation at the highest level





## Historical and intellectual roots

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- Alexander von Humboldt (1769 - 1859): discoverer, universal scholar, cosmopolitan and patron of excellent scientific talent
- 1953: establishment of today's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation based in Bonn Bad-Godesberg
- international network of academic cooperation and trust inspired by Humboldt's example





# Principles of the Foundation

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- sole selection criterion: academic excellence
- no quotas for countries or disciplines
- sponsorship of people, not projects
- free choice of academic host/collaborative partner in Germany
- independent scientific research, not stipulated by the Foundation





## Equal opportunities for female academics

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- equal opportunities is an important issue for the Foundation
- sponsoring of women correlates with age, career stage and geographical origin
- measures supplementing standard sponsorship opportunities: fellowship extension or interruption, allowances, targeted counselling





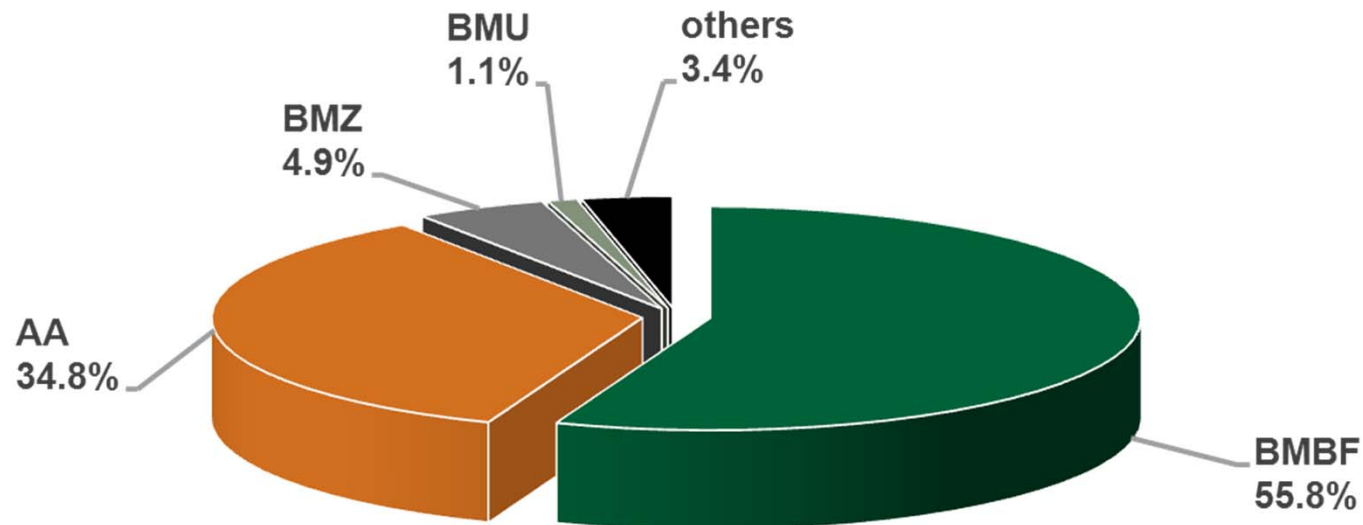


## The Humboldt Foundation's funding

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Budget for 2012: approx. 112.5 million EUR

Financed by federal funds: approx. 97%



AA: Federal Foreign Office  
BMBF: Federal Ministry of Education and Research  
BMZ: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development  
BMU: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety



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# Sponsorship Opportunities offered by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation





## Key sponsorship programmes at a glance

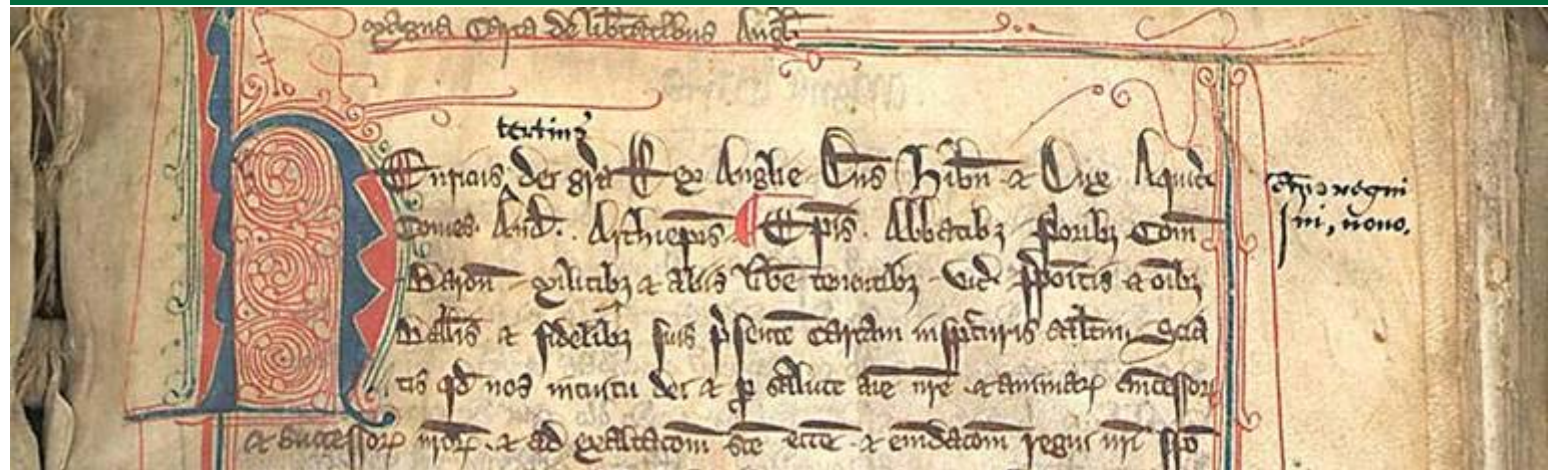
Career stages	Origin	Academics from abroad	Academics from Germany
<b>Postdoctoral researchers</b> (up to 4 years after completion of doctorate)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Humboldt Research Fellowship</li><li>• Georg Forster Research Fellowship</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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





# Research Fellowships

for exceptionally qualified academics from abroad and from Germany



# Research fellowships for research stays in Germany

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## For postdoctoral and experienced researchers

### Humboldt Research Fellowship

- worldwide, all disciplines, no quotas

### Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES)

- researchers from emerging and developing countries, all disciplines, no quotas
- research projects with relevance to development



# Research fellowships for research stays in Germany

## Humboldt Research Fellowship / Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES)

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



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# Research Fellowships: Application Requirements and Benefits





# Application requirements

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## Postdoctoral researchers

- above average doctorate
- academic publications
- agreement by academic host
- independent research project
- knowledge of German and/or English

## Experienced researchers

- independent academic activity, e.g. as an assistant professor
- comprehensive list of academic publications with own, clearly defined academic profile
- agreement by academic host
- independent research project
- knowledge of German and/or English





## Application procedure

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





## Benefits provided

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- fellowship
- travel lump sum
- language courses\*
- benefits for families
- allowance for research costs for the host institute\*

(\*not applicable to Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships)



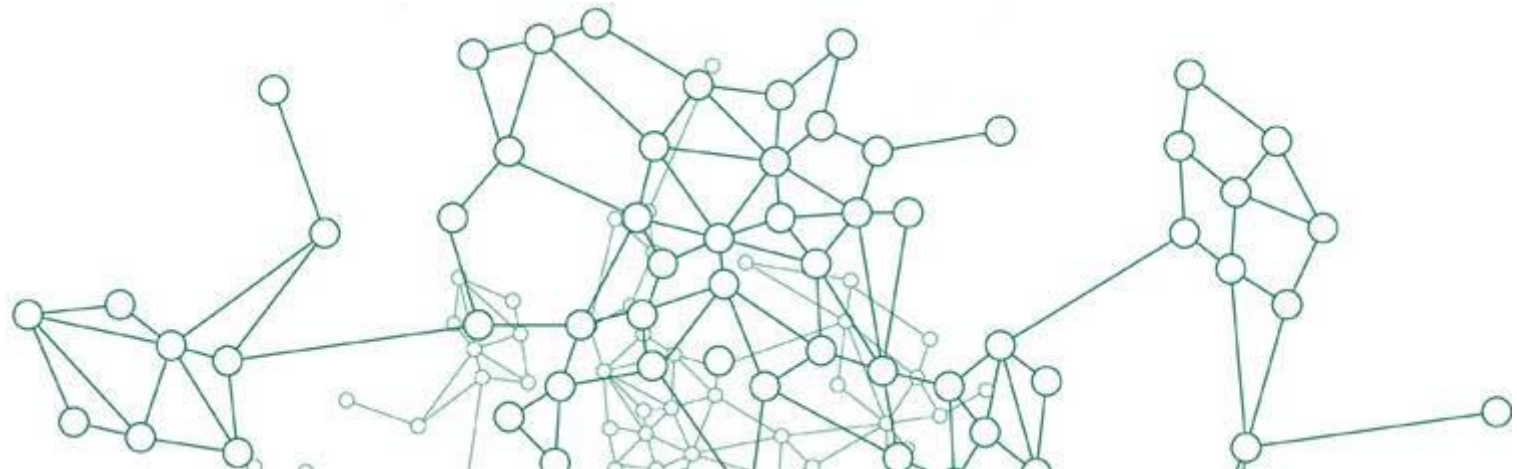


## Benefits provided

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- intensive and individual mentoring in Germany and abroad by personal contacts at the Foundation
- study tour\*, network meeting, annual meeting
- return fellowships for specific regions
- alumni sponsorship

(\*not applicable to Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships)



## Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES) – additional benefits

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- **child allowance** (400 EUR per month for the first child and 100 EUR per month for each additional child)
- **subsidy towards childcare costs**, if at least one child of no more than twelve years of age accompanies the research fellow in Germany
- **subsidy towards a pension plan** of up to 200 EUR per month, providing the research fellow contributes the same amount from her or his own finances
- **bridging grant** to cover transitional periods of unemployment in Germany



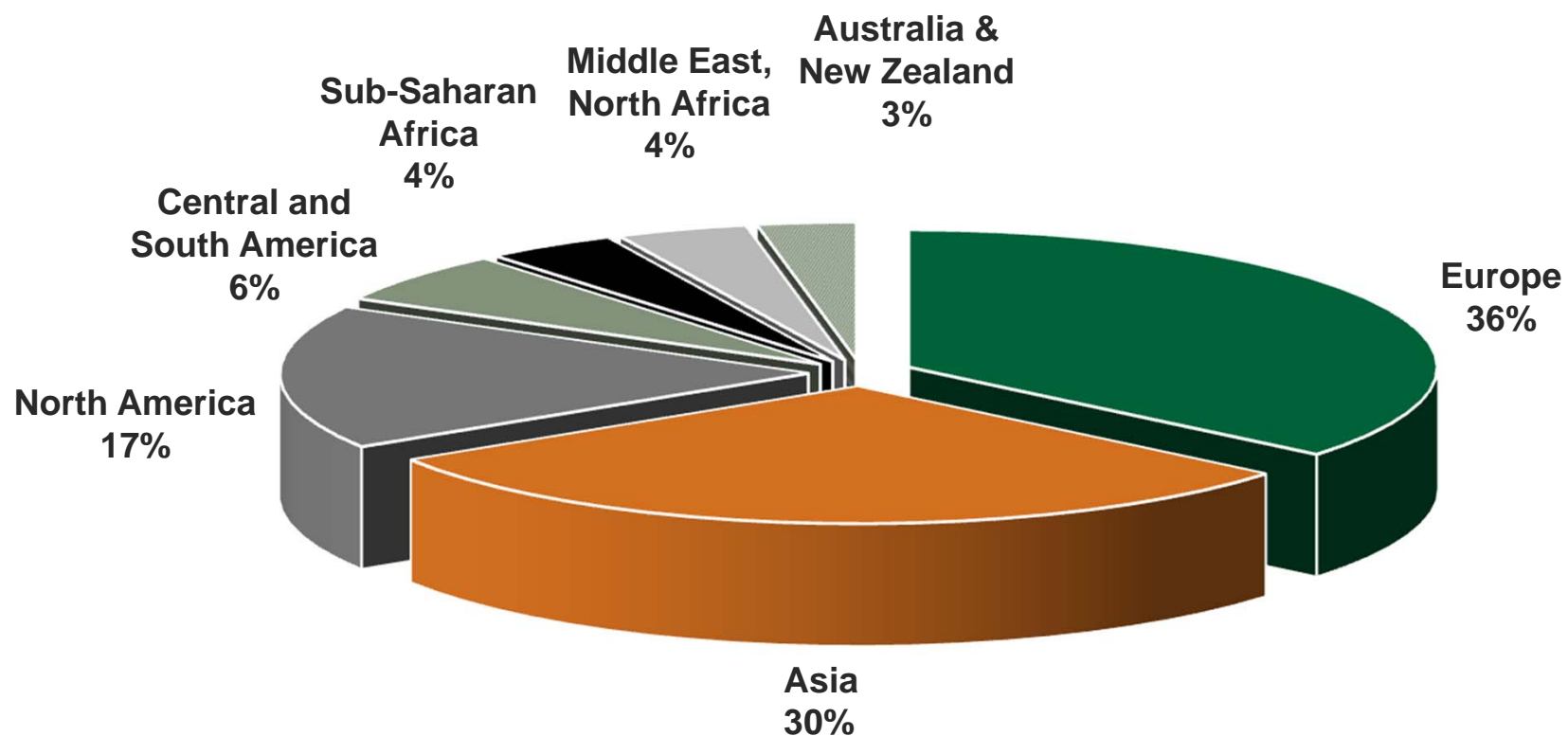


## Origin of guest researchers

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2008–2012:

2,830 research fellowships granted to academics from abroad



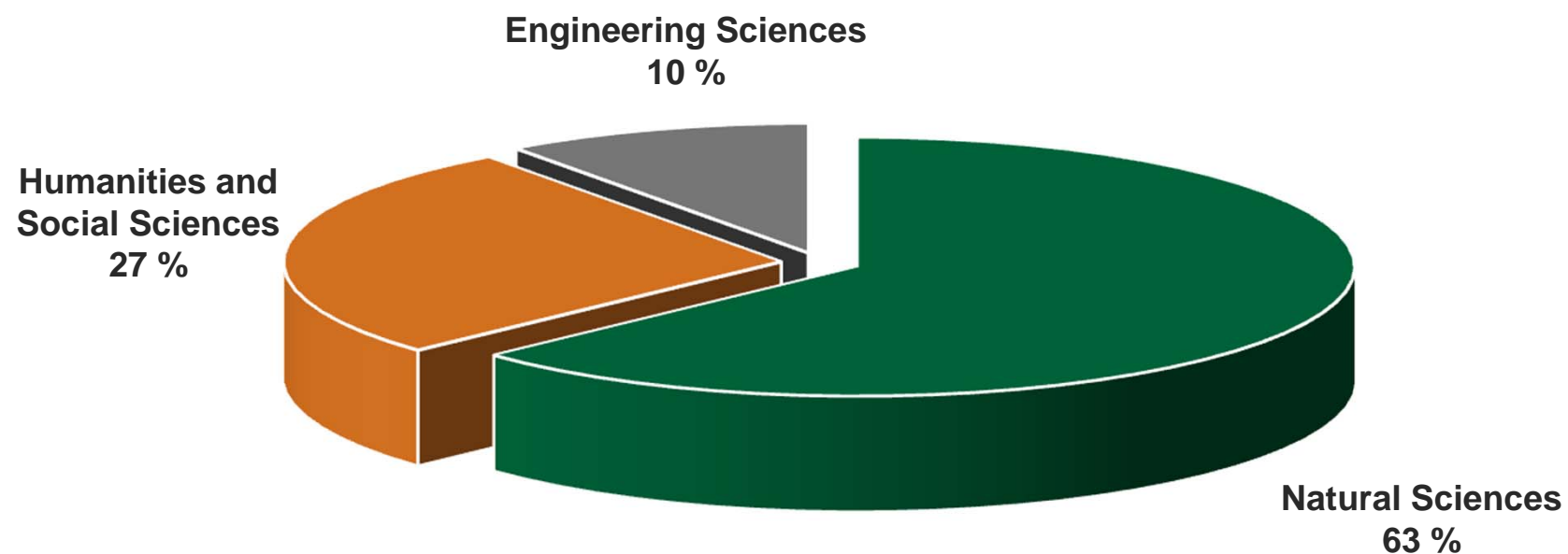




## Disciplines of guest researchers

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2008–2012:  
2,830 research fellowships granted to academics from abroad



# International Climate Protection Fellowships

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for prospective leaders from **emerging and developing countries**, who

- are engaged in climate protection and resource conservation;
- are working in academia, business, governmental or non-governmental organisations;
- would like to conduct an independent project agreed with a host in Germany



# International Climate Protection Fellowships

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## Application requirements

- Bachelor's or equivalent academic degree
- further academic or professional qualification or extensive, theme-related professional experience
- leadership potential

## Benefits provided

- 12-month fellowship in Germany, extension of up to 3 months possible
- introductory seminar, training courses, final meeting
- language course (optional), travel lump sum, family allowances





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# Award Programmes





## Research awards – overview

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- Research awards
  - Humboldt Research Award: 60,000 EUR
  - Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award: 45,000 EUR
  - Reimar Lüst Award: 50,000 EUR
  - Konrad Adenauer Research Award: 50,000 EUR
  - Phillip Franz von Siebold Award: 50,000 EUR
- Anneliese Maier Research Award: 250,000 EUR
- Max Planck Research Award: 750,000 EUR
- Sofja Kovalevskaja Award: up to 1.65 million EUR
- Alexander von Humboldt Professorship: 3.5 to 5 million EUR





## Georg Forster Research Award

- for internationally renowned academics from developing and threshold countries
- up to 4 awards are granted in 2013
- 60,000 EUR; additional funding of up to EUR 25,000 to support the collaboration
- research stay in Germany
- nomination





## Alumni and Network Sponsorship (1)

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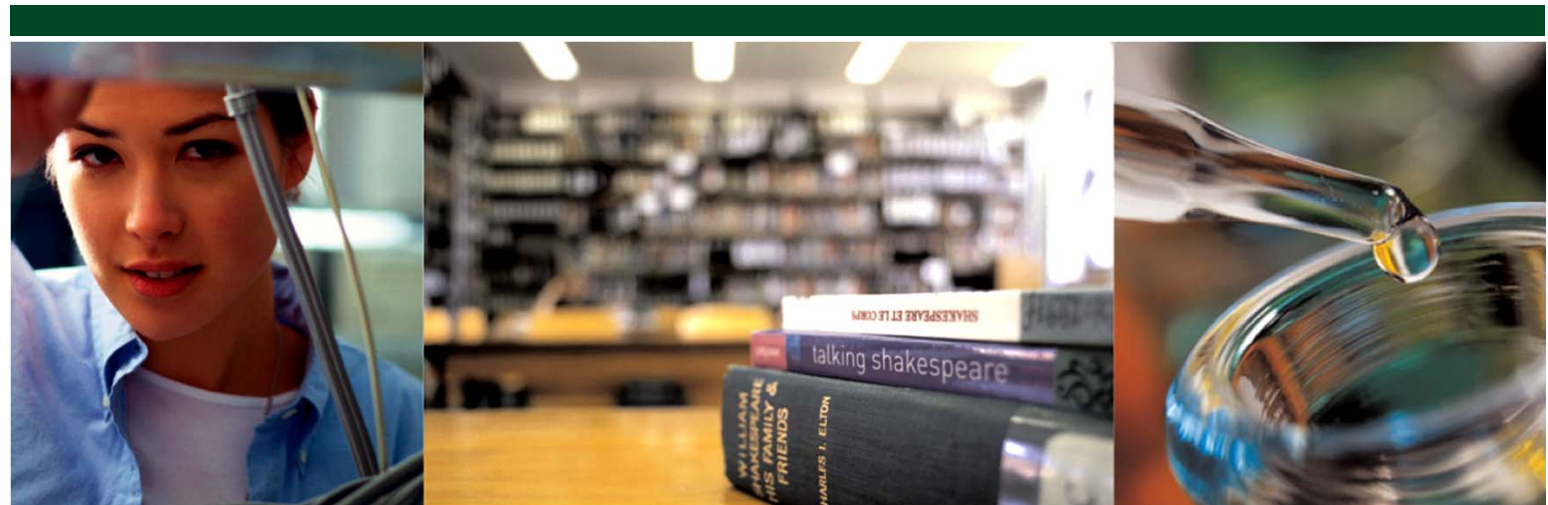
- short-term visits in Germany (up to 30 days)
- renewed research stays (up to 3 months)
- long-term stays by German researchers
- printing cost subsidies
- Humboldt Kollegs
- Humboldt Colloquia





## Alumni and Network Sponsorship (2)

- Humboldt Alumni Award
- return fellowships
- short-term visits by German researchers
- book subsidies
- equipment subsidies
- long-term research cooperation (i.e. Research Group Linkage Program)





## Origin of Guest Researchers

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- Countries with relatively many Humboldtians ( $> 200$ ):  
*Egypt (389), Israel (264)*
- Countries with moderate numbers of Humboldtians  
(more than 100): *Iran (112)*
- Countries with few Humboldtians (less than 100):  
*Algeria (21), Iraq (13), Jordan (35), Lebanon (23), Morocco (27),  
Palestine (15), Syria (17), Tunisia (17)*





## AvH in the Middle East and North Africa

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- > 900 Humboldtians (~ 100 Research Awardees, ~ 100 Georg Forster-Research Fellows)
- > 20 Feodor Lynen Research Fellows (2 in Jordan)
- ~ 20 Humboldt-Kollegs (e.g. in Jordan in 2009, 2010, 2011 and possibly 2014)
- 6 Humboldt-Kolloquia (e.g. Jordan, May 2009)
- Humboldt Ambassador Scientists in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco
- Humboldt Alumni Associations in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Maghreb
- Research Group Linkages in Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Tunisia





# Humboldt Network Online

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- Public network
  - search and find Humboldtians electronically
  - search the Bibliographia Humboldtiana
- Protected area (for Humboldtians)
  - access the details and contact addresses of all Humboldtians
  - administer entries in the Bibliographica Humboldtiana and your personal profile

[www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/researching-the-network.html](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/researching-the-network.html)



## Contact

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

**[info@avh.de](mailto:info@avh.de)**

[www.humboldt-foundation.de](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de)

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