



Programme information

CAPES-Humboldt Research Fellowship

for postdoctoral and experienced researchers

With the CAPES-Humboldt Research Fellowships for postdocs and experienced researchers, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and CAPES (Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior) enable highly-qualified scientists and scholars from Brazil to spend extended periods of research in Germany. Scientists and scholars from all disciplines may apply. Postdocs can apply **up to four years after completing their doctorates** for a fellowship duration of 6-24 months. Experienced researchers can apply **up to twelve years after completing their doctorates** for a sponsorship period of 6-18 months. Short-term visits for study and training purposes or for attending conferences are not eligible for sponsorship.

The duration of the fellowship may be divided up into a maximum of three visits, with each visit lasting at least three months. The research fellowship must be used within 36 months of commencement and within 48 months if it is extended (for further information on sponsorship, see “Fellowship specifications” section).

The research outline is carried out in cooperation with academic hosts at research institutions in Germany. Candidates choose their own topic of research and their host in Germany. Details of the research outline including information on the intended duration of the fellowship and division of visits, if applicable, must be agreed with the intended host before applying.

Decisions to award fellowships are based solely on the evaluation of the candidate’s academic qualification. An individual’s personal and educational background – including and especially with regard to equal opportunities and accessibility – are also taken into account. There are no quotas for individual disciplines.

A candidate’s academic qualification is 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 the 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 host institution)
- the applicant’s future potential (academic potential, further academic development, career prospects)



- applicants who are applying as **experienced researchers** are also expected to have their own, clearly defined personal academic profile. This means they should usually already be working at least as an assistant professor, lead a junior research group or be able to document several years of independent research work corresponding to the basis for eligibility for a professorship.

Applications are assessed academically on the basis of a peer review process in relation to the career level of applicants (time after completion of the doctorate). The final decision on all applications for both programme lines is taken by a selection committee within the framework of the funding available (for further information on the selection procedure, see “Application and selection procedure”).

Fellowship specifications

The fellowship is worth **2,700 EUR per month for postdocs** and **3,200 EUR per month for experienced researchers**. CAPES will pay 2,100 EUR or 2,300 EUR of the monthly fellowship rate as well as a subsidy towards the cost of medical insurance, an initial subsidy and a travel allowance. The Humboldt Foundation will pay the remaining difference to the fellowship amount of 2,700 EUR or 3,200 EUR plus a **mobility allowance**.

Before the start of the fellowship, the Humboldt Foundation provides an intensive language course in Germany lasting two or four months (including for accompanying partners).

In addition, a family allowance for accompanying partners and/or children under 18 will be granted if they are staying in Germany for at least three months. The following benefits may also be applied for:

- a subsidy towards the cost of medical and liability insurance for an accompanying partner and/or children under the age of 18;
- **a flat-rate allowance for single parents** with accompanying children;
- **an extension** of the research fellowship for fellows with accompanying children or for a maternity period.

There are further support options for research fellows with **disabilities or chronic illnesses**.

For fellowships with a sponsorship period of more than six months, **research stays outside Germany are possible under certain conditions**, provided that these are required for carrying out the research (up to 25% of the planned total sponsorship period). For research stays in Brazil, separate regulations apply.

Hosts in Germany can apply for an **allowance for research costs** to the value of 800 EUR per month (natural sciences, life sciences and engineering) or 500 EUR (humanities and social sciences).

Upon successful completion of the research stay, various forms of **alumni sponsorship** can be granted to alumni who are still actively involved in research, particularly for promoting contact with cooperation partners in Germany.

Details on the above-mentioned benefits and further information on fellowship modalities and the research stay in Germany can be found in the [Guidelines and Information on Research Fellowships of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#).

The Humboldt Foundation assumes that candidates and funding recipients will abide the [Rules of Good Scientific Practice](#) and all legally binding principles of scientific ethics.

Application requirements

1. **Doctorate in Brazil** or abroad with official recognition in Brazil completed (the last academic achievement) no longer than four years prior to the date of application for postdocs or twelve years for experienced researchers. PhD diplomas and, for diplomas obtained abroad, proof of recognition received in Brazil, must be submitted with the application to both organizations;
2. **Academic publications** in journals and by publishers reviewed according to international standards, commensurate with the applicant's career level after completion of the doctorate;
3. **Confirmation that research facilities are available and mentoring agreement** and a **detailed expert's statement** by an academic host at a research institution in Germany;
4. Necessary **language skills**:
Humanities, social sciences and medicine: good knowledge of German if it is necessary to carry out the research successfully; otherwise a good knowledge of English; natural sciences and engineering: good knowledge of German or English.
5. **Brazilian nationality** or permanent residence visa in Brazil. Potential applicants of **German nationality** are eligible to apply provided that their habitual place of work and residence has been located in Brazil **on the assumption of permanence for at least five years**. Potential applicants who have completed their school education and one university degree or one university degree and their doctorate in Germany are subject to the regulations governing German citizens.
6. Eligible applicants must **reside in Brazil**. Applicants who are temporarily living outside Brazil at the time of application are eligible to apply, provided that they have not lived outside Brazil for longer than 12 months at the time of application.
7. Eligible applicants must have lived **outside Germany for a minimum of 12 months** in total **in the 18-month period** prior to submission of the application. Any person who, regardless of their place of residence, has supported themselves for more than 6 out of the last 18 months with financing from German institutions or who has worked on a doctoral project at an institution in Germany is not eligible to apply.

For more information, see the [questions and answers](#) on our homepage.

Any person who has already been sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation in the form of a research fellowship or research award cannot apply for a Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowship. They should turn to the Foundation's Alumni Programme for support for further research stays.



Application and selection procedure

Identical applications, including all the necessary additional documents, must be submitted online to CAPES and the Humboldt Foundation according to the deadlines stipulated. CAPES may request further documentation (see [CAPES website](#)). **Submission of an application to only one of the two organizations will result in the application being formally rejected.**

The host's documents have to be submitted only to the Humboldt Foundation. The hosts' confidential statement must be uploaded by the named academics with the Humboldt Foundation application form. Applicants will email the corresponding link for access to the application form to the named individuals. It is only possible to submit the application once all documents have been uploaded completely. Both organizations will confirm receipt of the application. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that he or she has submitted identical and complete application documents to both organizations. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection procedure.

All applicants must comply with all rules of both CAPES and the Humboldt Foundation.

The timetable for the selection rounds can be found on the respective homepages of both cooperation partners. Applications for a selection round can be submitted until the end of the deadline listed there (until 17:00 local time Brasilia).

CAPES and the Humboldt Foundation will usually obtain two independent peer reviews. On this basis, a selection committee composed of about 12 academics from all disciplines reaches a decision on approving research fellowships. The selection committee meets twice a year, in spring and autumn.

If an application has been approved,

- a) applicants will be asked to use a link in the CAPES system and submit additional documents to be able to receive benefits of the scholarship;
- b) applicants can start the fellowship on the start date given in the application or on the earliest possible date after that within the period specified on the homepage. Under certain conditions, the start date may be postponed for up to 12 months.

A revised application may be submitted provided that fundamental aspects of the original application have been significantly improved. The committee will determine if it has been significantly improved. In the case of unanimously rejected applications, a new application will be accepted only after 3 calls.

Further information on the application and selection procedure and on the documents required is available in the [questions and answers](#) on the websites of the Humboldt Foundation and CAPES and also in the application form notes.

as of June 2024