

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

issued August 1, 2020

HELMHOLTZ DOCTORAL PRIZE

funded by the Initiative and Networking Fund of the
President of the Helmholtz Association



A. Aim of the funding

One of the priorities of the Helmholtz Association is to support talented young researchers early on in their careers, to foster their enthusiasm for research and to promote scientific excellence. To this end, the Helmholtz Association has established a doctoral prize that honors academic achievements to that point and serves as an incentive to early career researchers to remain in science.

The Helmholtz Doctoral Prize is one of several funding instruments the Helmholtz Association has successfully established to promote talented young researchers specifically. The prize recognizes outstanding achievements during the doctoral phase whilst also emphasizing the exemplary function successful candidates have within the Helmholtz Association.

In addition, the Helmholtz Doctoral Prize aims to encourage doctoral candidates to pursue an academic career and to also increase the number of young female researchers. Therefore the President of the Helmholtz Association particularly welcomes the nomination of outstanding female candidates for the award.

B. Applicants

The funding instrument is aimed at young researchers who have completed their doctoral studies with outstanding results at a Helmholtz Center within the last year. Candidates must have excelled scientifically during their doctoral studies and should demonstrate personal commitment as well as a clear intent to pursue a career in research.

To be eligible for nomination, candidates must have successfully completed their doctoral studies and defended their thesis before an application is submitted on their behalf. The earliest possible date for the defense to have taken place is one calendar year prior to the application deadline of October 1, 2020. The PhD certificate or an equivalent certification from the awarding institution must be submitted to the Helmholtz Association head office by January 01, 2021, at the latest. Candidates who fail to present the required documents cannot be considered.

C. Funding scope, duration, and object

The Helmholtz Association awards one prize in each of the association's six research fields: energy; earth and environment; health; aeronautics, space, and transport; key technologies / information; and matter.

Awardees receive a one-time cash prize in the amount of €5,000, which they are free to use for a scientific endeavor of their choice.

In addition, a monthly allowance of up to €2,000 for travel and material costs will be granted for a stay abroad of up to six months at an international research institution. Prize winners are free to organize their residency as they see fit but must begin their stay abroad within one calendar year after the funding decision has been announced. Furthermore, awardees must remain employed at a Helmholtz Center throughout the duration of their stay abroad. Prize winners, who upon completion of their doctoral studies have moved on to work at a research institution abroad, may use the monthly allowance to return to a Helmholtz Center for further research.

If the situation permits it the prizes will be awarded by the President of the Helmholtz Association at the "Helmholtz Horizons" event, which is linked to the "re:publica" conference in May 2021.

D. Application Process

The Centers are responsible for the pre-selection of suitable candidates and their nomination. **Each Center may nominate at maximum one candidate per research field.** Original application documents and electronic copies are to be submitted via the Centers' directors to the Helmholtz Association Bonn head office by **October 1, 2020, at the latest.** Applications should be addressed to Ms. Martina Carnott, Ahrstraße 45, 53175 Bonn, martina.carnott@helmholtz.de.

Candidates may not submit their own applications.

Applications must include the following documents:

- cover sheet with the following information:
 - candidate's name and contact details (including an e-mail address and telephone number)
 - title of the candidate's doctoral thesis
 - name of the Helmholtz Center, institute and supervisor
 - research field for which the nomination is being made (five or six keywords)
- copies of the candidate's doctoral certificate or equivalent university certification (submission deadline: January 31, 2021) including grades and, where relevant, other certificates (such as credits obtained at graduate and/or research schools).
- a detailed CV, including awards, scholarships, stays abroad, lectures/poster presentations at conferences, etc.
- a publication list (publications published and/or accepted during and after the candidate's doctoral studies)
- a letter of recommendation from the director of the nominating Helmholtz Center and/or direct supervisor, containing the following information:
 - the reasons why the candidate has been nominated (including the relevance of his/her research to the Helmholtz Association's mission)
 - evaluation of the candidate's dissertation and other academic achievements to date
 - assessment of the candidate's potential, as a researcher but also with regards to his/her personality (no more than 2-3 pages)

E. Selection process

The Helmholtz Association's management boards review submitted applications and present their nominees to the President of the Helmholtz Association for final selection. Candidates are not required to present themselves in person as part of the process.

F. Dates and Deadlines

October 1, 2020	Deadline for Helmholtz Centers to submit their nominations to the Helmholtz Association's head office
November 1, 2020	Applications that meet the award's formal requirements are made available to the Helmholtz Association management boards for review
January 15, 2021	Submission of final candidates as selected by the management boards to the head office Presentation of nominations to the President of the Helmholtz Association for final selection
Mai 2021	If the situation permits it presentation of the prizes by the President of the Helmholtz Association at the "Helmholtz Horizons" event, which is linked to the "re:publica" conference in Berlin