

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- *What does the statement "The funding instrument is aimed at young scientists who have completed their doctoral studies with outstanding results at a Helmholtz Center within the last year" mean?*
It means that to be considered, a candidate should have completed his or her doctorate no earlier than one calendar year prior to the application deadline. For the purpose of this call for applications, the date of completion is defined as the date of thesis defense. Example: The application deadline is October 1, 2020. Thus candidates who have defended their dissertation between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020, will be considered.
- *What exactly can the monthly allowance for travel and material costs be used for?*
The money is not intended as full funding, meaning that it is not intended to cover an awardee's salary. Salaries will continue to be paid by the Helmholtz Center. Furthermore, it is not possible to transfer funds to the foreign research institution (to finance personnel and investments, for instance). However, all other costs incurred in connection with the stay (travel, accommodation, material costs, etc.) are eligible for funding.
- *Does the stay abroad have to be a full six months?*
No, the maximum funding period is six months. Stays can be arranged flexibly by the awardees. For example, three stays of two months each or one stay of four weeks and one of five months can be funded. However, the maximum funding per month is €2,000. If the total duration of the stay or stays is less than six months, the maximum funding amount will be reduced accordingly. Example: total duration of stay = 5 months, maximum funding = €10,000 (5 x €2,000).
- *Can the monthly allowance for travel and material costs be claimed if awardees are no longer employed at one of the Helmholtz Association's centers, but at another research institution in Germany?*
No. The monthly allowance can be claimed for a) a research stay at an international institution abroad, provided that the awardee continues to be employed by a Helmholtz Center throughout the entire stay or b) for a stay at a Helmholtz Center, provided that the awardee is employed at an international institution abroad throughout the entire stay.
- *Whom do I have to inform about the planned research stay?*
On the one hand, awardees must inform their employer, who advances the funds for the travel allowance (see below). On the other, the Helmholtz Association's head office must receive a brief summary (hosting institution, (research) activities, etc.) as well as a cost estimate via e-mail in advance of the planned stay.
- *How does the settlement of the monthly allowance for travel and material costs work?*
It is up to the Helmholtz Center in question to advance an awardee's monthly travel allowance. Once full documentation of incurred costs has been submitted to the Helmholtz Association's head office, a reimbursement is made on the basis of a supplementary contract with the center.