



全国博士后管委会-德国亥姆霍兹联合会
2018“中德博士后交流项目”通知

**Announcement of the 2019 Call in the
Helmholtz – OCPC Postdoc-Program**

In order to support outstanding Chinese postdoctoral talents and to strengthen the cooperation between Helmholtz Research Centers and their Chinese partner institutions, the Helmholtz Association and the Office of China Postdoc Council have signed an agreement to launch a joint postdoctoral exchange program in 2017. Both sides committed to the joint selection and co-funding of **50 outstanding young scholars annually** to work as a postdoc in a Helmholtz Research Center for a **two-year period**. The program will initially run for five years (from 2017 – 2021).

Currently nine Helmholtz Research Centers participate in the Helmholtz-OCPC Postdoc program: DESY, DKFZ, FZJ, GFZ, GSI, HZB, HZI, HMGU and KIT. Within the first two application rounds in 2017 and 2018, over 80 excellent candidates could be jointly selected and funded in total.

The Helmholtz Head Office has collected 71 calls from the participating Helmholtz Research Centers for the third call in 2019. The specific description for each position can be found on the following websites (in Chinese):

http://www.chinapostdoctor.org.cn/WebSite/program/Info_Show.aspx?InfoID=7a6dcda1-21ff-453c-b547-71fa154806f2

<https://www.helmholtz.de/cn/homepage/all-news/helmholtz-ocpc-programme/>

Chinese applicants may also retrieve further information provided on the ‘China Postdoc Website’: <http://www.chinapostdoctor.org.cn>.

Requirements

This program is open to talented young Chinese researchers who are currently either in the final phase of their PhD or doing their postdoc research (either in China or abroad). Applicants should have the **Chinese nationality** and should be **under the age of 35 years**. They should have obtained their PhD degree within the last five years. In principle, applicants should meet the application requirements of the domestic postdoc stations.



Status and obligations of the successful applicants upon entering the program

The selected candidates will have the same status as a newly recruited postdoctoral fellow in China without a domestic mentor. At the respective Helmholtz Research Center, they will be classified as postdoctoral fellow. The selected candidates should register at a domestic postdoc station before their departure to Germany.

During their two years of research at the hosting Helmholtz Research Center, they will remain under the virtual administration of the postdoc station, where they can also claim their Chinese funding monthly or bimonthly. Two months after the two-year stay in Germany has ended, the postdocs should return back to China and complete the necessary procedure to leave the domestic postdoctoral station.

Amount of the fellowship and funding procedure

OCPC will award each chosen postdoc fellow a grant amounting to **300,000.00 RMB**, which will be forwarded to the individual postdoc stations. The postdoc stations will make a monthly or bimonthly transaction to the fellowship-holder. This Chinese part of the funding is not tax-free in most cases. The hosting Helmholtz Research Center will grant the selected fellows an additional tax-free amount of **1500 Euros** per month as assistance.

The combined funding amounts should be spent on, e.g., living expenses and health insurance as well as the participation in academic exchanges or relevant networking events in Germany.

The two year co-funding period for each grantee will be calculated from the date of the arrival of the postdoctoral fellow in Germany. OCPC may generally approve a one-year extension, but without offering additional funding. Thus, in these cases the financial support of the fellows must be provided by the German partner.

Application procedure and announcement of the results

The applicants need to follow the official announcement from the Office of China Postdoc Council, prepare the required documents and fill in the application forms by **25 April 2019**. They should submit the application to a postdoc station which has agreed to recommend them to OCPC in time.

All applications must be submitted by a certified domestic postdoc station. OCPC and the German partners may not accept individual applications directly.

OCPC will then collect all the official approved application materials from the postdoc stations and then ask the German partners to carry out their evaluation and interview. Finally, the Helmholtz Research Centers will complete the selection procedure and report their decision to the Helmholtz Headquarters, which will inform OCPC about the selection results. This should take place around late June 2019.



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OCPC will then go through an internal procedure for approval and then announce the results to the public and to the German partners. The final results of the joint selection will be published in the official online portal of OCPC at <http://www.chinapostdoctor.org.cn>.

Next steps after the selection

The selected candidates need to get in touch with OCPC in time, so as to obtain the official certificate assuring the fellowship both in Chinese and English. The Helmholtz-OCPC Postdoc Fellows should then contact their Helmholtz supervisor, presenting the certificate. The respective Helmholtz Research Center then needs to prepare the formal invitation and a work contract, which will be required for the visa application. All the fellows should register at their respective domestic postdoc station before they leave for Germany.

The postdoctoral fellows enrolled in this program will undergo an internal evaluation within six months of their arrival at the respective Helmholtz Research Center. In case the results of the evaluation are negative or in case of a dispute between the postdoctoral fellow and his/her supervisor, the postdoc fellow or the supervisor may ask the permission of the Helmholtz Research Center to terminate the proposed project in writing.

Steps after the successful completion of the program

After the postdoctoral fellow has successfully completed the proposed research in two years, they should complete their case with the managing domestic postdoc station in time. Depending on how their original agreement or contract with their previous employment unit in China was managed, they may return back to their original domestic position or switch to another available position either in China or abroad at their own discretion.

For more information, please contact the liaison offices of Helmholtz and OCPC:

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