

Helmholtz International Fellow Award for Excellent Researchers and Science Managers from Abroad

Call for applications

I. Background and aims

Cooperation with the world's best researchers is a key objective of the Helmholtz Association's international activities. To this end, the organisation has also committed itself to an internationalisation strategy within the framework of the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation. The **Helmholtz International Fellow Award** aims to intensify existing cooperation between Helmholtz Centers and international research institutes and to further strengthen the links between Helmholtz researchers and outstanding colleagues abroad. Another aim is to further increase the international visibility of the Helmholtz Association as an excellent research institute and an attractive cooperation partner. The Association also aims to achieve a multiplier effect. **Helmholtz International Fellows** can serve as ambassadors for the Helmholtz Association and promote new links and cooperation with their country of origin and/or home institute.

II. Funding recipients, focus, scope and requirements

The **Helmholtz International Fellow Award** targets outstanding senior scientists and research managers based outside Germany who have excelled in fields relevant to the Helmholtz Association, including science management at large international research institutions, and who already cooperate with a Helmholtz Center or multiple Helmholtz Centers. The adequate representation of female scientists will be taken into account during the selection process.

The award will give **Helmholtz International Fellows** the opportunity to pursue research flexibly at one or more Helmholtz Centers where cooperation already exists or would be useful and profitable in the future. For example, the funding will allow successful candidates to carry out **joint research projects** with colleagues from the Helmholtz Association or to intensify existing cooperation. Moreover, it is a plus if candidates plan to **engage with further Helmholtz Centers i.e. the whole Research Field** and if they are also open to participate in **activities on the level of the Helmholtz Association** (e.g. as a speaker at the Helmholtz Management Academy or at events such as 'Fokus @ Helmholtz' or the Helmholtz Annual Conference).

The most important selection criteria are the researcher's academic performance, his/her international reputation and the compatibility of his/her research field or project with the activities of the nominating Helmholtz Center.

In 2018 up to **10 Helmholtz International Fellow Awards** can be awarded. The Helmholtz International Fellow Award provides funding of €20,000. German or international researchers who are based abroad and who do not have an employment contract with a Helmholtz Center are eligible for funding.

III. Application and selection process

The Executive Boards of the Helmholtz Centers will submit nominations proposed by Helmholtz researchers - or in some cases by groups such as the scientific advisory boards - following an internal selection process to the President of the Helmholtz Association. Each Helmholtz Center may submit a **total of two applications** per calendar year.

Applications may be submitted at any time before the relevant deadline. The Helmholtz Association's Head Office will assess the applications in terms of formal criteria and content.

The applications will then be discussed at a meeting of the Helmholtz Executive Committee ('Präsidium'). This committee will select the best candidates from the nominations received. The Helmholtz Association plans to hold two selection meetings in 2018 (see below). Applications must be fully completed and submitted at least six weeks in advance of the meeting in order to be considered.

Deadlines for the selection meetings in 2018:

10 May 2018 (for selection during the Helmholtz Executive Committee meeting on 26 June 2018)

28 September 2018 (for selection during the Helmholtz Executive Committee meeting on 07 November 2018)

Successful applicants will be informed immediately after the meeting and will be able to visit a Helmholtz Research Center and start their research shortly afterwards.

There is no application form. However, applications should include the following documents:

- The candidate's **curriculum vitae** and **list of publications** (including a brief list of key publications)
- A letter of recommendation for the candidate in which the nominating party praises the candidate's academic performance and explains the **reasons for the nomination** (e.g. description of the **history and status of the collaboration** between the candidate and the respective Helmholtz Center(s); relevance of the research project to the Helmholtz Center's programme and research area strategy).
- Moreover, a **concrete plan** detailing the ideas for future collaboration must be included in the letter of recommendation. Ideally, **activities going beyond the nominating Helmholtz Center** are also featured (e.g. exploration of cooperation with other Helmholtz Centers in the same or another Helmholtz Research Field, active participation in events on the level of the Helmholtz Association).

The documents should be submitted **either in English or German**.

It will be assumed that the candidate agrees to be a Helmholtz International Fellow and will accept funding if his/her application is selected.

One copy of the application complete with original documentation will be submitted by the director of the relevant Helmholtz Center to the President of the Helmholtz Association and via e-mail to Alexandra Rosenbach (alexandra.rosenbach@helmholtz.de). Applications must be complete to be considered.

IV. Information on receiving the award, payment of prize money and start of research at a Helmholtz Center

Successful candidates will be sent a letter from the Helmholtz President informing them that they have been selected to receive a **Helmholtz International Fellow Award** (award letter). The nominating Helmholtz Centers will receive a copy of the award letter. The monetary value of the award will be stated in this letter.

Visiting researchers will arrange a starting date for their stay in consultation with the host researchers / Helmholtz Centers in Germany. The duration of the research period will depend on the relevant requirements and conditions of the planned research cooperation and will also be agreed between the successful candidate and his/her host. If desired, the research period can be divided into several short-term stays.

The **Helmholtz International Fellow Award** is awarded in recognition of the successful candidate's personality and service to science and can only be accepted personally by the award winner. The award is not transferable. **Helmholtz International Fellows** may use the funding to cover the costs of their stay in Germany (e.g. for travel and accommodation costs) and to finance further activities within the scope of the Award.

The Initiative and Networking Fund and the host Helmholtz Center will co-sign a funding letter. The latter will request the funding as required by the award winner or as a one-off payment. Award winners can receive a first instalment or, if preferred, the entire sum of their prize money from the host Helmholtz Center when they arrive in Germany. In this case, either the funding will be transferred to a German bank account set up by the candidate upon his/her arrival in Germany or, for example, a cheque can be issued. Alternatively, the Helmholtz Fellow may choose to have the nominating Helmholtz Center administrate the funds for him/her and use them to pay for the Fellow's trip to a stay in Germany.

Award winners are responsible for their own tax affairs. However, the Helmholtz Association would like to point out that awards are generally not liable for income tax in Germany under German tax legislation if they primarily honour the award winner's lifetime achievements, overall work or personality, fundamental views or role-model status. This is the association's intention in awarding research prizes aimed at honouring the award winners' overall achievements to date as internationally outstanding researchers. Legislation in the award winners' countries of origin or residence may include special regulations on the taxation on awards.