

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

**Funded by the Initiative and Networking Fund of the President**

**Call for applications**

**13 January 2020**

### **I. Background and aims**

Cooperation with the world's best researchers is a key objective of the Helmholtz Association's international activities. The Association has underlined this intention both in its Internationalization Strategy 2017 – 2022 and in 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 increase the international visibility of the Helmholtz Association as an excellent research institution 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, promote new links and identify cooperation possibilities 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', "Helmholtz Horizons" 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 2019 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 2020 (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 2020:**

**30 April 2020 (for selection during the Helmholtz Executive Committee meeting on 16 June 2020)**

**28 September 2020 (for selection during the Helmholtz Executive Committee meeting on 10 November 2020)**

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.

Applications must be submitted **in English** using the attached **application form**. Moreover, the following three **additional documents** must be included:

- Official **nomination letter** signed by the Board of the nominating Helmholtz Center
- The candidate's **curriculum vitae**
- The candidate's **list of publications** (including a brief list of key publications)

**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 must be submitted by the Board of the relevant Helmholtz Center to the President of the Helmholtz Association and via e-mail to Alexandra Rosenbach ([alexandra.rosenbach@helmholtz.de](mailto:alexandra.rosenbach@helmholtz.de)). Applications must be complete in order 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 hosting Helmholtz Center will co-sign a funding agreement. The latter will request the funding as required by the award winner or as a one-off payment. Funding **must be requested** at the latest **1,5 years** after the funding decision was made.

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.

## ***Appendix***

### **Information about the processing of your personal data in the application and assessment procedure of your funding application**

In the following, we would like to inform you about the collection and processing of your data in connection with the application and assessment procedure in pursuit of a financial grant for your proposed research project.

#### **1. Contact details of the responsible person and data protection officer**

Responsible for the data processing described below is the Hermann von Helmholtz Association of German Research Centers e.V. (hereinafter "Helmholtz Association"), Anna-Louisa-Karsch-Str. 2, 10178 Berlin.

In case of any questions or concerns regarding data protection, please contact our Data Protection Officer(s) via e-mail at [datenschutz@helmholtz.de](mailto:datenschutz@helmholtz.de) or by post to the address given above, with the addition "Data Protection Officer".

## **2. Data processing in the assessment and application process**

As part of processing your funding application, we collect the personal data that you submit to us. The purpose of the collection of your data is to carry out the assessment procedure, which is necessary to review the conditions for the grant.

Your application data (in particular your name, date of birth, nationality, address, telephone number, e-mail address, motivation letter, curriculum vitae, details of your planned research project, your publications, patents, letters of recommendation, references and explanations) will therefore only be used for the purpose of completing the application and assessment procedure. In addition, we collect and process information about you in case application interviews are scheduled to take place.

The legal basis for data processing results from Art. 6 para. 1 lit. b GDPR.

The provision of your data is required for the possible approval of your funding application. You are not legally or contractually bound to submit this information to us. However, as we require information about you to complete our procedures, the possible consequence of non-provision is that we cannot consider you as an applicant.

## **3. Access and transfer to third parties**

All data are processed exclusively by us and are not passed on to third parties. This does not apply to the recipients whom we approach as part of the assessment process. Your data will be sent to peer reviewers to support the selection process. These will only receive your data for the time period and to the extent that is necessary for the completion of the assessment.

## **4. Retention period**

We store your data only as long as it is necessary for the application and assessment procedure or in case we are obliged to do so for legal reasons or obligations.

## **5. Rights of data subjects**

You are entitled to information (Art. 15 GDPR), correction (Art. 16 GDPR) or deletion (Art. 17 GDPR) of your personal data as well as the right of data transferability (Art. 20 GDPR). Furthermore, you can demand the restriction of data processing (Art. 18 GDPR) and object to the processing (Art. 21 GDPR) of your personal data as well as the right not to be subjected to a decision based solely on automated processing (Art. 22 GDPR).

All data protection concerns may be directed to the contact person listed under point 1 above.

## **6. Right of appeal**

You have the right to complain to our data protection supervisory authority. You may assert this right with a supervisory authority in the Member State of your place of residence, your place of work or the place of alleged infringement. The responsible supervisory authority is: Berlin

Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (Berliner Beauftragte für Datenschutz und Informationsfreiheit), Friedrichstr. 219, 10969 Berlin.

## **7. Data security**

We ensure that the data is protected by appropriate technical and organizational measures at all times.