

# Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowship for postdoctoral researchers

## Programme information

In providing Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowships for **postdoctoral researchers**, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and Capes (Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior) enable highly-qualified scientists and scholars from Brazil who are just embarking on their academic careers and **who completed their doctorates less than four years ago**<sup>1</sup> to spend extended periods of research (6-24 months) in Germany. Scientists and scholars from all disciplines may apply.

The research outline is carried out in cooperation with academic hosts at research institutions in Germany. Applicants choose their own topic of research and their host in Germany. Details of the research outline including information on the intended duration of the fellowship must be agreed with the intended host before applying. The duration of the research fellowship is 6-24 months. Short-term visits for study and training purposes or for attending conferences are not eligible for sponsorship.

Candidates are selected solely on the basis of the evaluation of their academic qualification. There are no quotas for individual disciplines. A candidate's academic qualification is assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- academic record and academic performance to date (mobility, determination, breadth of research activities, academic productivity)
- quality of key publications specified in the application (originality, degree of innovation, applicant's contribution in cases of multiple authorship)
- originality and innovation potential of the suggested research outline (significance for the advancement of the discipline, convincing choice of academic methods, prospects for academic development of the applicant, clear focus and feasibility of realization within the requested funding period and at the chosen host institution)
- the applicant's future potential (academic potential, further academic development, career prospects)

Applications are assessed on the basis of independent peer reviews requested by Capes and the Humboldt Foundation. The final decision is taken by a committee composed of academics from all disciplines in the framework of the funding available.

## Fellowship specifications

The fellowship is worth 2,500 EUR per month. Capes will pay 2,100 EUR of the monthly fellowship rate for postdoctoral researchers, as well as a subsidy towards the cost of medical insurance, an initial lump sum and a travel allowance. The Humboldt Foundation will pay the remaining difference to the fellowship amount of 2,500 EUR.

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<sup>1</sup> Researchers who completed their doctorates less than twelve years ago may apply for "Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowships for experienced researchers".

### Additional benefits for research fellows:

- **mobility lump sum** as a subsidy for expenses in connection with necessary conference and research trips, archive and library stays, etc. in Germany and abroad
- **language fellowship** for an intensive language course lasting two to four months at selected language institutes in Germany **immediately prior to** the actual period of research; language fellowships may also be granted to accompanying marital partners;
- **family allowances** for accompanying family members staying at least three months;
- **for single parents: flat-rate allowance** for accompanying children (under the age of 18) for stays of at least three months;
- **additional extension** of the fellowship up to 12 months for research fellows accompanied by children under the age of 12;
- **a subsidy towards research costs** to be paid to the hosts in Germany amounting to 800 EUR per month (for research in the natural sciences and engineering) and 500 EUR (for research in the humanities and social sciences);
- **Europe allowance** for a research stay at a research institute in another European country; for a designated period in the course of the fellowship if necessary to ensure the success of the research;
- **extensive alumni sponsorship** once a successful research stay has come to an end, especially for maintaining contacts with collaborative partners in Germany during the Humboldtian's entire academic career.

Further information on fellowship modalities and the research stay in Germany can be found in the [Guidelines and Information on Research Fellowships of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#). The Humboldt Foundation assumes that candidates will abide the [Rules of Good Scientific Practice](#) and the legally binding principles of scientific ethics during the application and sponsorship periods.

### Application requirements

1. **Doctorate** in Brazil or abroad with an official revalidation in Brazil completed less than four (4) years prior to the date of application. PhD diplomas and, for diplomas obtained abroad, also the revalidation in Brazil, must be submitted with the application to both organizations.
2. **Academic publications** reviewed according to international standards and printed in journals and/or by publishing houses.
3. **Confirmation that research facilities are available and mentoring agreement and a detailed expert's statement** by an academic host at a research institution in Germany.
4. **Necessary language skills:**  
*Humanities or social sciences and medicine:* good knowledge of German if it is necessary to carry out the research successfully; otherwise a good knowledge of English;  
*natural sciences and engineering:* good knowledge of German or English.
5. Brazilian **nationality** or permanent residence visa in Brazil. Potential applicants of German nationality are eligible to apply provided that their habitual place of work and residence has been located in Brazil on the assumption of permanence for at least five years. Potential applicants who have completed their school education and one university degree or one university degree and their doctorate in Germany are subject to the regulations governing German citizens.
6. **Applicants must reside in Brazil** at the time of application.
7. **Eligible applicants must have lived outside Germany** for a minimum of 12 months in total in the 18-month period prior to submission of the application. Any person who, regardless of their country of residence, has supported themselves for more than six out of the last 18 months with financing from a German institution or who has worked on a doctoral project at an institution in Germany in the last 18 months also is not eligible to apply.
8. **Identical applications have to be submitted to the Humboldt Foundation's and Capes online systems** in time (whereas the host's documents have to be submitted only to the Humboldt Foundation); Capes may request additional documents from the applicants (see

Capes homepage for details). If the application is only submitted to one of the two organizations, it will be formally rejected.

For more information, see the [questions and answers](#) on our homepage.

Academics who have already been sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation are not eligible to apply for the Capes-Humboldt Research Fellowship Programme but should turn to the Foundation's Alumni Programme for support for further research stays.

### Application and selection procedure

Identical applications, including all the necessary additional documents, have to be submitted online to Capes and the Humboldt Foundation according to the deadlines indicated. **The host's documents have to be submitted only to the Humboldt Foundation.**

The required documents must be uploaded by their authors directly to the applicant's online application form. The applicant will send the link needed to access the application form via e-mail to the designated persons.

Visit the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's website <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/capes-humboldt-research-fellowship> and Capes' website <https://www.gov.br/capes/pt-br/aceso-a-informacao/acoes-e-programas/bolsas/bolsas-e-auxilios-internacionais/encontre-aqui/paises/alemanha/programa-bolsas-para-pesquisa-capeshumboldt> for further information on the online application process and all necessary documents as well as access to the online application system for each organization.

It is only possible to submit the application once all documents have been uploaded completely. Capes and the Humboldt Foundation will confirm receipt of the application. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that he or she has submitted identical and complete application documents to both organizations (and that the host's documents have been submitted by the host to the Humboldt Foundation in time). Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection procedure.

All applicants must comply with all rules of both Capes and the Humboldt Foundation.

The timetable for the selection rounds can be found on the respective homepages of both cooperation partners. Applications for a selection round can be submitted until the end of the deadline listed there (until 17:00 local time Brasilia)

The application documents will then usually be forwarded to independent reviewers appointed by Capes and the Humboldt Foundation for written review. On the basis of these independent peer reviews a selection committee composed of about 12 academics reaches a decision on approving research fellowships. The selection committee meets twice a year, in spring and in autumn.

If an application has been approved,

- a) the fellow will be asked to fill in a link at Capes system and send additional documents to be able to receive benefits of the scholarship;
- b) the fellow arriving from Brazil may start the fellowship as indicated in the table above. Otherwise the fellowship will be forfeited.

Applicants who have been rejected may submit a revised application provided that fundamental aspects of the original application have been significantly improved. The committee will determine if it has been significantly improved. In the case of unanimously rejected applications, a new application will be accepted only after 3 calls.