

Call for Applications Humboldt Residency Programme 2025 Frequently Asked Questions

Application Procedure

Is eligibility for the 2025 Residency Programme restricted to researchers in specific disciplines?

No. There is no requirement or limit regarding disciplines either within or outside of academia. We aim to convene as diverse a group as possible including as many disciplines and backgrounds as possible. Equally, it is not the goal to focus on these disciplines in the cohort's work. Rather, the topics for the residency are as broad as the title suggests. It will be up to the participants to find common ground and questions that they as a group want to consider.

What are the criteria for selection?

The selection committee will evaluate applications based on

- how well the candidate's motivation fits with the programme's objectives,
- the relevance of their perspective or approach to the annual topic,
- their professional achievements,
- their suitability regarding science communication and transdisciplinary cooperation,
- the programme's potential impact on their future professional development.

When composing the group, in addition to evaluating individual applications, the selection committee will take diversity in the overall composition into account with regard to disciplines, geography and gender.

The Smash link to my video expires in seven days. What should I do?

Please upload the video the same day you share your application with us. We will download it upon receipt and thus within the seven-day availability period.

Funding specifications

Are there any charges for participation in this programme?

No, participants are not charged for this programme. It is fully funded, and participants receive a monthly allowance during the six-week residency period in Berlin/Brandenburg as well as a travel allowance for travel to and from Germany.

What are the costs of accommodation in Berlin and Brandenburg?

Participants' accommodation at Schloss Wiepersdorf (two weeks) and at an aparthotel in Berlin (four weeks) is fully covered by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Cultural Foundation Schloss Wiepersdorf. You do not have to pay for the residency if you are selected to participate.

How much is the stipend/honorarium that participants can expect?

The stipends for researchers are in accordance with the standard Humboldt Foundation fellowship rates. Individuals from civil society, journalism, arts or social entrepreneurship receive a competitive honorarium in comparison with other residencies. It is calculated with the goal of ensuring that participants do not suffer financial loss by participating.

Is there a travel grant?

Funding for participation in the Humboldt Residency Programme includes an allowance for travel to and from Germany.

Is there a visa grant?

Participants in the programme will not be charged for a visa for the residency period. This will be stipulated in the visa invitation letter issued by the Foundation.

Participation requirements and selection criteria

I don't know which category to apply for. What should I do?

Choose the one that seems most appropriate and mention the other option you are considering in the email you send together with the application. We will not exclude your application if you have chosen the wrong category but will simply move you into the category we consider most appropriate. The categories merely serve as a tool for ensuring diversity in the group and will not play a role beyond the selection process.

I'm a Humboldtian, but I don't hold an academic position. What should I do?

If you are a Humboldtian but are currently working in civil society, for example, you should apply in that category.

What level of English is required for participation in this programme?

Proficiency in English and the ability to communicate and discuss scientific subjects effectively in English are essential. Given the participants' diverse backgrounds, all communication amongst the participants as well as with the Humboldt Foundation staff present and our collaborative partners will be in English.

Should the application include references or letters of recommendation?

Letters of recommendation are not required for an application for the Humboldt Residency Programme and will therefore not be taken into consideration if submitted.

Residency Programme Dates and Activities

Is it possible to attend only parts of the Residency?

No. All participants must be present for the entire six weeks of the residency. The programme will include daily in-person meetings from Monday to Thursday. Participants are free to organise the weekends as they choose.

Can I continue my regular job during the residency?

Yes – to a certain extent. In order for the residency to succeed it is crucial that participants invest significant amounts of time in the programme during the six weeks it lasts. Whilst we design the residency in a way that enables participants to keep up with some of their regular work, we advise you to allow yourself as much time as possible for the residency as we see value in the creativity that arises from simply having the time and space to think and reflect.

The work sessions and meetings with collaborative partners are usually scheduled for the first half of the day on Monday to Thursday, so participants can keep up with their other responsibilities in the afternoons (and on Fridays). If you are able to completely dedicate your time to the residency, the afternoons are a great opportunity to engage with other members of the cohort to develop your own projects and deepen your reflections on the topic.

Family Friendliness

Can I bring my family along?

Yes. It is important to us to make this programme as family friendly as possible. If required, we will provide accommodation suitable to accommodate either accompanying partners, children, and/or other dependent family members in both Wiepersdorf and Berlin.

In organising the residency, we do our best to schedule events in the mornings or early afternoons. However, please be prepared to attend two or three evening events during the residency. Family members are welcome to join the group during meals and cultural activities that will be arranged for the group. If necessary, we can assist in finding childcare for the time in Berlin. Unfortunately, the remote location of Wiepersdorf does not allow for external childcare to be provided.

If you are invited to join the programme we will ask you about your family requirements and will be happy to discuss how they can best be accommodated. Please note that we cannot be flexible in assisting you with short-term requests for accommodation or childcare as we have to arrange these resources at an early stage.

Will my family members receive a visa to travel to Germany?

We will provide all participants in the programme who need a visa with an invitation letter which can include accompanying family members.

Is there a travel grant for dependent/accompanying family members?

Unfortunately, the Humboldt Residency Programme does not include a travel grant for dependent family members or a family allowance.