



Wissenschaft.Niedersachsen.Weltoffen

Science.Lower Saxony.Open to the world

*Please note: The English version of the call is provided for informative purposes only.
Merely the German version of this call is binding.*

Objective

Foreign scientists are an enrichment for the Lower Saxonian research community. We are currently witnessing increased isolationism, ideologization, politically motivated denial of scientific findings as well as expulsion and harassment of scientists on a global scale. With this call the Lower Saxonian government intends to support foreign researchers in need and moves to make a clear statement supporting free and open science, global sharing of knowledge and international responsibility.

To scientists who need to take refuge, have been displaced or are otherwise forced to leave their homes, this call offers a three-year research-scholarship and therefore a temporary research and employment perspective in Lower Saxony. Furthermore, this call provides an opportunity for universities and research organisations in Lower Saxony wishing to host affected scientists as well as to established Lower Saxonian scientists wishing to support colleagues in need.

The scholarship is designed to support foreign researchers during a time of acute personal and professional hardship. At the same time, it intends to enable these scientists to further their scientific qualifications and to help them develop new career perspectives, either within the scientific community or other professions; either in Germany, in their home country or in other locations.

The application for a scholarship has to be submitted by a mentor, a scientist working at a university or research organisation in Lower Saxony, on behalf of the foreign scientist. The mentor is expected to support the mentee in his or her scientific endeavour. Moreover, the host institution needs to express its willingness to organize the necessary legal and financial aspects related to the scholarship.

Funding

Duration: Up to 36 months. The scholarship amount¹ per month is:

	PhD Students	Post- Docs/ Senior Scientists
Basic payment	1.400 €	1.750 €
Additional payment (to cover for maintenance and travel costs)	100 €	250 €
Allowance for accompanying spouses without own income	270 €	
Allowance for children	€ 400 for the first child, € 100 for each additional child	

The allocated budget allows for approximately 30 scholarships.

Application

The noted applicant is the mentor. He or she can submit an application directly, but acknowledgement and support of the university's or research organisation's management is required.

Mentors can be either professors at a university in Lower Saxony (see §2 NHG) or a chief scientist of a public research organisation or a respective department in Lower Saxony.

The informal application can be written in German or English. It should be a joint effort of the mentor and the visiting researcher. Both need to sign the application.

The application should include:

- Research proposal: Max. three-page draft of the planned joint research of mentor and visiting researcher. Embedding the mentor's ongoing research is appreciated.
- Visiting researcher:
 - scientific CV
 - language skills
 - documentation of scientific qualifications
If no formal documents can be provided, it is necessary to name and – if possible – to substantiate previous research results/ output.
 - brief account of the current personal and professional situation including plans for the future either within our outside academia.
 - Information on the (planned) residence status in Germany (the residence status has to be determined prior to the beginning of the scholarship; respective individual counselling and support by the host organisation is expected).

¹ The Leistungs- und Durchführungsbestimmungen in the annex apply.

- Mentor:
 - scientific CV
 - brief statement addressing the following questions:
 - How did you meet/ learn about the potential visiting researcher?
 - How do you rate her/ his scientific quality, previous research results and scientific potential – taking into account her/his individual living and working conditions?
 - How does the planned joint research effort fit in with your own research?

- Host institution:
 - brief statement regarding the following aspects:
 - Assuming responsibility for scholarship payments.
 - Supporting the visiting researcher concerning legal residence issues.
 - Further support the visiting researcher regarding e.g. language classes, housing and legal and social counselling in respect to integration issues etc.

Application deadline: 15th of September 2017 and 15th of November 2017

There is no quota system in respect to the two deadlines. Hence, the available budget may be consumed after the first deadline.

Applications can only be submitted electronically to:
bettina.weber@mwk.niedersachsen.de

For further enquiries please contact Dr. Martin Berger, Tel. (0511)120-2520.

Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated by a selection committee including representatives of the Ministry of Science and Culture and the VolkswagenStiftung.

Selection criteria are the scientific adequacy and the personal/ professional situation of the visiting researcher, the quality and plausibility of the joint research proposal and the support provided by the host institution.

We seek to decide on the applications within four weeks after the deadline. Resubmission of rejected applications is not possible.

Important additional information

Please note that the scholarship is not tantamount to any employment or service relationship with the host institution. Hence, the payment of the scholarship is no remuneration within the meaning of § 14 SGB IV. It is also no employment in terms of the law on residence (§ 2 Abs. 2 AufenthG).

The scholarship is tax-free under the conditions laid down in § 3, section 44 German Income Tax Act (EStG). Moreover, scholarship holders are not subject to statutory social security requirements, which means that they are themselves responsible for ensuring an adequate health-insurance coverage during the period of the scholarship. Scholarship payments may possibly be set off against other social security benefits.

Applicants are advised to seek counselling at the international office of the host institution prior to the application.