Exzellenz verbindet –
be part of a worldwide network

Saeed Balalaie

Ambassador Scientist of
Alexander von Humboldt
Foundation

21 October, 2015

DAAD Alumni Treffen, Sustainable Development
To develop innovative, green solutions to address the climate, food and energy crises facing the world today, science and technology, research and development capacities for sustainable development must be strengthened.
The highly qualified research through international relations with other universities and research centers have the most important of Iranian human resources and is the main component to promote sustainable development in the county.
Research for Sustainable Development

“This is where my knowledge grows. I am studying in Germany.”

Rawi Saleh from Saudi Arabia is studying for a Master’s degree in Microbiology and Biochemistry at the University of Göttingen.

Research in Germany

Land of Ideas
Historical and intellectual roots

- Alexander von Humboldt (1769 - 1859): discoverer, universal scholar, cosmopolitan and patron of excellent scientific talent
- 1953: establishment of today’s Alexander von Humboldt Foundation based in Bonn Bad-Godesberg
- International network of academic cooperation and trust inspired by Humboldt’s example
The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Connecting academic excellence worldwide

Knowledge transfer and cooperation at the highest level
Core activity of the Humboldt Foundation

- We grant annually about 600 research fellowships and 100 research awards to highly qualified researchers (PhD-holders) from all over the world.
- We enable them to spend extended research stays in Germany and to work with German colleagues.
- We offer life long sponsorship options for our Alumni ("Once a Humboldtian, always a Humboldtian").
- **Sponsorship of people, not projects**
The Humboldt Foundation's areas of work

- sponsorship of international academics as a part of foreign cultural and educational policy
- strengthening cutting-edge research through internationalisation
- impetus for the research location Germany by promoting individuals
- advancing development through academic cooperation
Principles of the Foundation

- sole selection criterion: academic excellence
- no quotas for countries or disciplines
- sponsorship of people, not projects
- free choice of academic host/collaborative partner in Germany
- independent scientific research, not stipulated by the Foundation
Equal opportunities for female academics

- equal opportunities is an important issue for the Foundation
- sponsoring of women correlates with age, career stage and geographical origin
- measures supplementing standard sponsorship opportunities: fellowship extension or interruption, allowances, targeted counselling
Research Location Germany
Research location Germany

- Universities
- Leibniz Institutes
- Max Planck Institutes
- Helmholtz Centres
- Fraunhofer Institutes
Research institutions

- approximately 100 universities: research in all disciplines
- 83 Max Planck Institutes: basic research, especially in the natural and biosciences but also in the humanities and social sciences
- 67 Fraunhofer Institutes: applied research
- 18 Helmholtz Centres: technical-scientific and biomedical research
- 89 Leibniz Institutes: research ranging from knowledge-oriented basic research to applied research
Sponsorship Opportunities offered by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
Sponsorship – individual and personal

- sponsorship for foreign and German top-flight academics to collaborate with specialist colleagues
- more than 700 prestigious research fellowships and awards annually
- flexible sponsorship options for different career stages
- individual and personal mentoring for those sponsored and their families
## Key sponsorship programmes at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Academics from abroad</th>
<th>Academics from Germany</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral researchers</td>
<td>● Humboldt Research Fellowship</td>
<td>● Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>(up to 4 years after completion of</td>
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<tr>
<td>doctorate)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior research group leaders</td>
<td>● Sofja Kovalevskaja Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>(up to 6 years after completion of</td>
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<td>academics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Anneliese Maier Research Award</td>
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<td>● Alexander von Humboldt Professorship</td>
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</table>
Research fellowships for research stays in Germany

For postdoctoral and experienced researchers

Humboldt Research Fellowship
- worldwide, all disciplines, no quotas

Georg Forster Research Fellowship
- researchers from emerging and developing countries, all disciplines, no quotas
- research projects with relevance to development
Alumni sponsorship and international networking

- more than 26,000 Humboldtians in over 140 countries: “Once a Humboldtian – always a Humboldtian”
- alumni sponsorship and international networking through e.g.
  - further research stays
  - Research Group Linkage Programme
  - Humboldt Colloquia and Kollegs
  - Humboldt Alumni Associations
  - Humboldt Alumni Award
Research Fellowships

for exceptionally qualified academics from abroad and from Germany
Research fellowships for research stays in Germany

For postdoctoral and experienced researchers

Humboldt Research Fellowship
- worldwide, all disciplines, no quotas

Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES)
- researchers from emerging and developing countries, all disciplines, no quotas
- research projects with relevance to development
# Research fellowships for research stays in Germany

**Humboldt Research Fellowship / Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES)**

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<th>Experienced researchers</th>
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<td><strong>Duration of sponsorship</strong></td>
<td>6 to 24 months</td>
<td>6 to 18 months, may be divided up into 3 stays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application period</strong></td>
<td>applications at any time, doctorates completed less than 4 years ago</td>
<td>applications at any time, doctorates completed less than 12 years ago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fellowship amount</strong></td>
<td>2,650 EUR per month (plus additional benefits)</td>
<td>3,150 EUR per month (plus additional benefits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research fellowships for research stays abroad

For postdoctoral and experienced researchers

Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship

- worldwide, all disciplines, no quotas
- members of the Humboldt Network abroad as hosts
  www.humboldt-foundation.de/lynen-search-for-host
- host contribution (negotiated individually)
Research fellowships for research stays abroad

Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships

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**Fellowship amount**: dependent on age, family status and destination

(A fellowship calculator is available on our website)
Research Fellowships: Application Requirements and Benefits
### Application requirements

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<th>Postdoctoral researchers</th>
<th>Experienced researchers</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● above average doctorate</td>
<td>● independent academic activity, e.g. as an assistant professor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● comprehensive list of academic publications with own, clearly defined academic profile</td>
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<td>● academic publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>● agreement by academic host</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>● independent research proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>● knowledge of German and/or English</td>
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Finding a scientific host in Germany

- Search interesting publications
- Ask colleagues with contacts in Germany (e.g. Humboldtians at your institute)
- Search the Humboldt Foundation’s Network Online
  - Network Online can be used to locate Humboldtians’ host institutes
  - searches can be filtered by subject area, location or keyword
  humboldt-foundation.de -> Humboldt Network -> Searching the network
- Search via the DAAD and DFG “Research Explorer”
  - The Research Explorer contains over 23,000 institutes at German universities and non-university research institutions, searchable by geographic location, subject and other structural criteria.
  www.research-explorer.de
Application procedure

- applications at any time to the Foundation directly
- assessment by independent expert reviewers
- decision by independent selection committees
- duration of procedure: approximately 4 to 7 months
Benefits provided

- fellowship
- travel lump sum
- language courses*
- benefits for families
- allowance for research costs for the host institute*

(*not applicable to Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships)
Benefits provided

- intensive and individual mentoring in Germany and abroad by personal contacts at the Foundation
- study tour*, network meeting, annual meeting
- return fellowships for specific regions
- alumni sponsorship

(*not applicable to Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships)
Look for a host in Germany

through the Humboldt Foundation’s Network Online

- Network Online can be used to locate Humboldtians’ host institutes
- searches can be filtered by subject area, location or keyword

www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/netzwerk-recherche.html

on the EURAXESS Germany website

www.euraxess.de/portal/search_engines_for_hosts.html

with the help of the Research Explorer from DAAD and DFG

- contains more than 19,000 institutes at German universities and non-university research institutions
- allows searches based on geographical, field-related and structural criteria

www.research-explorer.de

ask colleagues at your institute who have contacts in Germany (possibly Humboldtians)
2010–2014: 2,805 research fellowships granted to academics from abroad

- **Asia**: 27%
- **North America**: 17%
- **Middle East, North Africa**: 4%
- **Central and South America**: 7%
- **Sub-Saharan Africa**: 5%
- **Australia, New Zealand, Oceania**: 3%
- **Europe**: 37%
- **Sub-Saharan Africa**: 5%
- **Central and South America**: 7%
- **North America**: 17%

**Origin of guest researchers**
Disciplines of guest researchers

2010–2014: 2,805 research fellowships granted to academics from abroad
Award Programmes
Research awards

Humboldt Research Award (by nomination)
- for internationally eminent academics from abroad
- 60,000 EUR, research stay in Germany

Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award (by nomination)
- for experienced, internationally-respected academics from abroad up to 18 years after completion of doctorate
- up to 45,000 EUR, research stay in Germany
Research awards

Sofja Kovalevskaja Award

- for top level junior academics from abroad
- up to 1.65 million EUR for a period of 5 years
- to establish their own junior research group in Germany
- joint application by the applicant and the host institution
Research awards

Max Planck Research Award

- for outstanding foreign and German academics
- up to 750,000 EUR to fund a 5 year academic collaboration
- nomination by universities and research institutions in Germany
Research awards

Alexander von Humboldt Professorship

- International Award for Research in Germany for leading academics of all disciplines from abroad
- 3.5 or 5 million EUR for 5 years, up to 10 award winners p.a.
- nominations by German universities or joint applications by universities and non-university research institutions
- requirement: strategic plan by the university to integrate the award winner into long-term research and development
Research awards

Anneliese Maier Research Award

collaboration award to promote the internationalisation of the humanities and social sciences in Germany

- for outstanding researchers from abroad from the fields of the humanities and social sciences
- 250,000 EUR for a period of up to 5 years
- to finance research collaboration with specialist colleagues in Germany
- nomination
Research awards

Georg Forster Research Award

- for internationally renowned academics from developing and threshold countries
- 60,000 EUR; additional funding of up to 25,000 EUR to support the collaboration
- research stay in Germany
- nomination
“Once a Humboldtian, always a Humboldtian” – Alumni and Networking sponsorship
The Humboldt Network – more than 26,000 Humboldtians worldwide

Result of a representative survey within the Humboldt Network (2014):

- 78% of Humboldtians have scientific contacts with at least one other Humboldtian
- 66% have scientific contacts with two or more other Humboldtians

as of: January 2015
An Association for a Lifetime

- Maintaining continuous, life-long contact to all Humboldtians worldwide: “Once a Humboldtian – always a Humboldtian”
- Actively sponsoring academic contacts amongst Humboldtians worldwide through events at home and abroad
- Humboldt Alumni Associations
- Systematic network sponsorship
- Alumni sponsorship instruments
Alumni and Networking Sponsorship

- Renewed research stays in Germany for up to 3 months
- Invitation of postdoctoral scientists from Germany (Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships)
- Invitation of professors from Germany for short stays
- Grants for scientific equipment (max. 20,000 EUR)
- Book donations
- Research group linkages (max. 55,000 EUR – 3 years)
- Network conferences; “Humboldt Kolleg” (max. 40,000 EUR)
  The 1st Humboldt Kolleg in Iran (Isfahan) will take place in 2016!
- Humboldt Alumni Award for Innovative Network Initiatives
The Humboldt Foundation

Budget for 2014: approx. 110.5 million EUR

Financed by federal funds and the European Union: approx. 97%

AA: Federal Foreign Office
BMBF: Federal Ministry of Education and Research
BMZ: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BMUB: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

Iran: Applications and Fellowships 2010-2014

Applications
Approvals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Approvals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
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Success rates 2010-2014

- Success rate Iran
- Success rate MENA
- Success rate worldwide

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Iranian Humboldtian

21 Science

25 Engineering

13 Social Science

1 Medical
University of Tehran
Sharif University of Technology
K.N.Toossi University of Technology
Allameh Tabatabai University
Zanjan University
Tarbiat Modarres University
Shiraz University
University of Isfahan
AmirKabir University of Technology
Isfahan University of Technology
Bu-Ali Sina University
Humboldt Alumni Programs
Humboldt Life – the Foundation's online network

- A platform for all members of the Humboldt Family to promote professional and personal communication
- Members can
  - introduce themselves and present their research focus areas;
  - find new collaborative partners or trace colleagues they once worked with;
  - start or join groups to share knowledge and ideas;
  - enter their publications in a central publication database;
  - invite guests.

www.humboldt-life.de
Alumniportal Deutschland

- target group: anyone who has studied or conducted research in Germany (Germany alumni)
- access to all registered Germany alumni, organisations and companies
- access to opportunities in education and research
- opportunities for alumni to present their expertise
- platform for regional and professional alumni networks

www.alumniportal-deutschland.org
The Foundation’s Ambassador Scientists

- Dissemination of information about Humboldt Foundation's programmes
- Advisors for the Humboldt Foundation
- Contact partners for Humboldt Alumni

Prof. Dr. Saeed Balalaie
K. N. Toossi University of Technology, Teheran
The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is available to answer your questions at any time:
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Thank you for your kind attention