

Alexander von Humboldt



Stiftung / Foundation

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Sofja Kovalevskaja Award

– Information Sheet –

I. Programme

In 2006¹, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will grant the **Sofja Kovalevskaja Award**, which is funded by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, to young scientists and scholars from abroad with outstanding research records. The aim is to give award winners an opportunity to concentrate on high-level, innovative research work of their own choice in Germany, virtually without administrative constraints, and thus to promote the internationalisation of research in Germany. The award should allow the winners to finance their own working groups at their selected German university and non-university research institutions and to cover their living expenses.

The programme is open to scientists and scholars from all countries and disciplines. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation particularly welcomes applications from young, qualified **female** researchers.

II. Application requirements and selection of award winners

Applicants should not be over 35 years of age. They should have completed their doctorates with distinction and published work in prestigious international journals or publishing houses.

As a rule, foreign researchers already resident in Germany should not have been engaged in research in Germany for more than three years at the time of application. German nationals may apply if they have been engaged in academic work abroad for at least five years at the time of application. (Exceptions are possible in special cases. If in doubt, please contact the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.)

An independent Alexander von Humboldt Foundation selection committee selects the award winners and determines the value of the award. It is conferred by the President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation under the patronage of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research.

III. Value and purpose of award and use of funds

Recipients of the Sofja Kovalevskaja Award will be granted funding totalling up to 1.2 million EUR to conduct research of their own choice during a period of four years commencing immediately after the Award Ceremony.

¹ The award is supposed to be established on a permanent basis and granted every two years.

The award is intended to sponsor award-winners' research work (including the necessary equipment and material, personnel, travel expenses etc.) and should be used economically and prudently. It may be used to cover all expenses serving this purpose. Scientific equipment financed by the award will become the property of the host institution. Part of the award may be used to cover the award winner's living expenses².

To help cover costs resulting from the programme-related use of existing and/or specifically acquired material and specially-created personnel infrastructure (e.g. general institute facilities, laboratories or workrooms, operating and maintenance costs, finance and personnel management and auditing), German institutions at which award winners carry out research work may receive a flat-rate payment (usually a total of 5%) from funds granted to award winners (administrative flat-rate amount).

IV. Application documents and deadlines

Completed applications must be received by

January 4, 2006

at the latest. This deadline is not exclusive. However, it may not be possible to process incomplete applications or those received after this date during this round of applications.

The following documents (in German or English) are required in duplicate:

A. Applicants must submit:

- the completed application form (obtainable, on request, from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation or via the Foundation's homepage – <http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/kovalevskaja>);
- full details of the envisaged project (status of research, applicant's own preliminary work, work planned, timetable, implications of the research project for the applicant's academic career) and a rough estimate of the costs likely to be incurred during the entire period covered by the award, itemised according to personnel, scientific equipment, expendable material, travel, overall administrative and other costs (financial plan). This documentation should not exceed 25 pages in length. Please use the model financial plan and the guidelines enclosed with the application documents as a basis for personnel cost planning;
- a detailed statement of reasons for choosing the host institution – emphasizing particularly cooperation planned within the host institution and personnel and material resources etc. to be contributed by the host institution in its own interest;
- information on planned cooperation with other national and international partners;
- a list of funding available or applied for from other financial sources for the work planned;
- a complete chronological list of the applicant's publications;
- the doctoral thesis and a maximum of five offprints or copies of important current publications (including, where appropriate, detailed summaries in German or English if published in a language other than German or English);

² Depending on age and marital status, the amount is in accordance with "employers' gross" payments as laid down for the BAT Ia pay scale or – in the case of qualifications equivalent to "Habilitation" – BAT I (or Scale 15, as of 2007, Scale 15 with an efficiency bonus within the scope of the public service tariff agreement, TVöD). This currently amounts to an average salary of approximately 60,000 to 80,000 EUR p.a.

- a copy of the applicant's doctoral certificate;
- expert opinions, both personal and referring to the applicant's research proposal, by three leading academics (preferably from different countries) which should be sent directly to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation or enclosed with the application in a sealed envelope;
- a German or English language certificate (cf. enclosure attached to the application form).

B. The host institution must submit (to be sent directly to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation):

- a detailed assessment of the application, appraising in particular:
 - the applicant's academic qualification by international comparison,
 - his/her publications,
 - the influence of his/her work on both the immediate and broader field of expertise,
 - his/her current and planned academic activities and the research proposal submitted;
- information as to whether, and to what extent, the field of research or research plan can be integrated into existing or planned research activities at the host institution and to what extent this is expected to have an innovative influence on the host institution's research profile;
- information on how, and to what extent, the group of young researchers to be established can be integrated in the host institution;
- details of further concepts for long-term academic cooperation;
- confirmation that all facilities and equipment required for carrying out the research project will be provided for the duration of sponsorship;
- a legally binding certificate from the host institution's administration confirming that it will act as employer on the award winner's behalf, undertake the administration of sponsorship funds and, after submitting proof of use of funds to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, retain the receipts for the period required by the host institution itself.

V. Provision of funds and proof of use of funds

The award is paid in instalments. The first instalment will be remitted on request as soon as the recipient has accepted the award.

Details of award winners' accounting obligations (proof of use of funds) and additional information are included in the regulations on the use of funds for the Sofja Kovalevskaja Award which are available from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation or via the Foundation's homepage – http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/kova_01_02.htm.

VI. General regulations and obligations

When accepting the award, award winners undertake

1. to observe the principles of good scientific practice and the relevant legal regulations when carrying out the research work sponsored, especially:
 - the “Principles of Good Scientific Practice”, issued by the German Research Foundation (“Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG”), on the use of funds (DFG Regulations on the Use of Funds, form

2.01, I No. 12 and III, cf. http://www.dfg.de/forschungsfoerderung/formulare/download/2_01.pdf - excerpts from the current terms are included in Enclosure 4 to the Regulations on the Proof of Use of Funds);

- the Declaration of Helsinki in the revised version of October 2000, when planning and carrying out experiments on human beings;
- the provisions of valid legislation on the protection of animals, when carrying out experiments on animals;
- the law governing genetic engineering in the currently valid version, when carrying out experiments in genetic engineering and
- the relevant provisions of the Law on Foreign Trade and Payments and the German foreign trade regulations in the currently valid versions, when transferring knowledge to other states which may be of military importance or important to the armaments industry of transfer states.

2. not to utilise any other fellowships or funds from other German institutions designated for living expenses when using part of the award money to cover their living expenses;

3. to concentrate their entire working activity on the research project; secondary employment is only permissible in exceptional cases providing it does not interfere with the sponsorship objectives and requires written agreement from the AvH;

4. not to make use of any congruent sponsorship from funding deriving from German academic sponsorship; part funding from German or foreign sources must be reported to the AvH immediately.

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation recommends that host institutions should grant award winners the right to supervise doctoral students through to submission, possibly in cooperation with a university. This should be negotiated with the host institution and possibly in cooperation with a university on an individual contract basis. Any such contract should be submitted to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation after acceptance of the award.

June 2005