



Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation



Stay in Touch

A three-step guide to revitalising your connections with Germany



SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

Research in
Germany



Land of Ideas



Stay in Touch

A three-step guide to revitalising your connections with Germany

■ Are you one of Germany's research alumni?

If you have completed a research stay in Germany and are now continuing your academic work abroad, then you are what we call a "research alumnus/alumna" of Germany. You might be a research alumnus/alumna of the institution that sent you this brochure, or you might have several German "research alum" identities from a number of research and funding organisations. Whatever the case may be, both your experience and career path make you the perfect "ambassador" for Germany's research landscape and all it has to offer. That is why we'd like to ask you for your help.

■ Help spread the word on Germany as a leading research destination

Has your academic career benefited from your research stay in Germany? Ever wish you could give something back to your former host institution, while opening up opportunities for the junior researchers in your networks? Then help us spread the word on Germany as a research destination. All you have to do is share your experiences with junior researchers in your field – tell them about your stay in Germany and give them the chance to enjoy the benefits of doing research in Germany, too.



■ What is in it for you?

During your research stay in Germany you established professional and personal contacts within the German scientific community. Now, with the stay behind you, perhaps you have found it difficult to keep in touch. Encouraging junior researchers within your networks to do research in Germany can be a great way to revitalise these connections and bring you back into contact with your German colleagues. By sending junior researchers to Germany – and maybe even hosting German researchers in return – you can build up a sustainable and vital network of academic exchange and collaboration that benefits research on both sides.



■ Spreading the word about research in Germany

The most effective way of getting junior scientists and scholars interested in a research stay in Germany is by word of mouth. There are plenty of ways to do this. You could display informational material on the German research environment in your office, for example, or mention your research experience in Germany in class. Explain to the junior researchers you talk to how the stay benefited your career, and refer them to information on research and funding opportunities in Germany.

■ Start the ball rolling in just three steps!

We do not expect you to provide detailed information on individual sponsorship programmes or research institutions. All we ask is that you spark an interest in Germany among young researchers by telling your own personal story. If they want to learn more about research and funding opportunities in Germany after talking to you, we'll take it from there and provide them with the information they need. All you have to do is follow these three easy steps when informing about research opportunities in Germany:

Step 1: Get the facts!

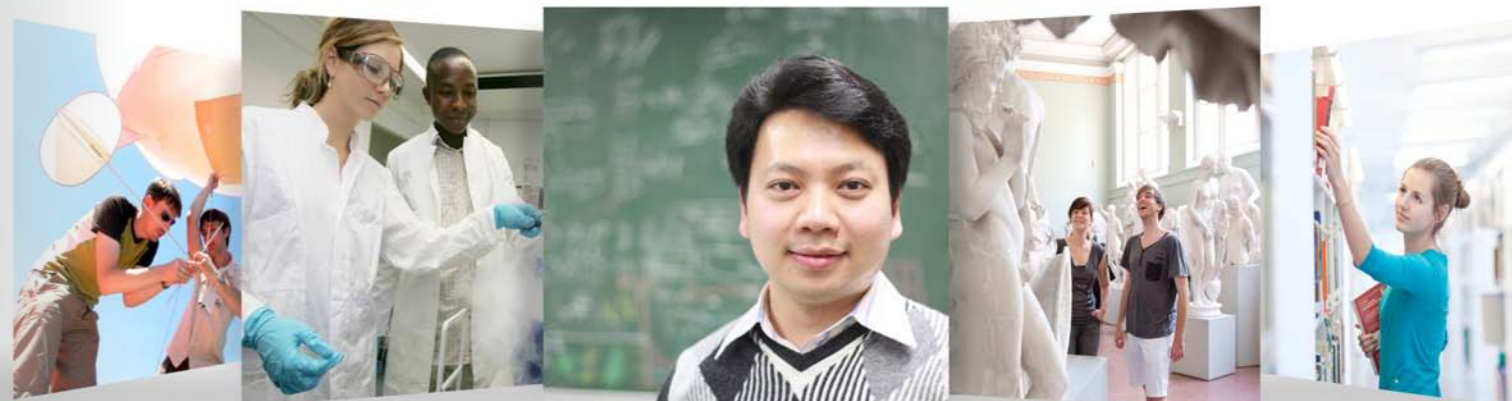
Your personal narrative will certainly be the most decisive factor in sparking interest in a research stay in Germany. We have put together some key facts on the advantages of conducting research in Germany to help reinforce your "message".



Remember ...
... your research stay in Germany!

Fact: First-rate research infrastructure

Germany is home to an excellent research infrastructure with state-of-the-art research facilities, a wide variety of research clusters, and highly qualified researchers in all disciplines. Research is carried out by approximately 750 publicly funded research institutions, among them nearly 400 universities, complemented by a large number of non-university research institutions such as the Max Planck institutes, Helmholtz research centres, Leibniz and Fraunhofer institutes. There are additional privately-run research and development centres as well.



Fact: Excellent funding opportunities

Funding options for international researchers in Germany are as diverse as the country's research landscape. Alongside public funding organisations like the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), there are several independent non-profit organisations that also offer funding for international researchers, such as the Volkswagen Foundation. Scholarships are also awarded by research-performing organisations like the Max Planck Society and the Helmholtz Association. Further attractive funding programmes are offered by the European Research Council and the European Commission.

Fact: Research with a global reach

German research is international in scope. International collaborations – whether on the European or the global level – have become an important and natural part of the German researcher's work. That is one reason why English is now the *lingua franca* at many of Germany's research institutions. Thus, while learning German is still extremely useful for making the most of a stay in Germany, international researchers will easily get by speaking English.

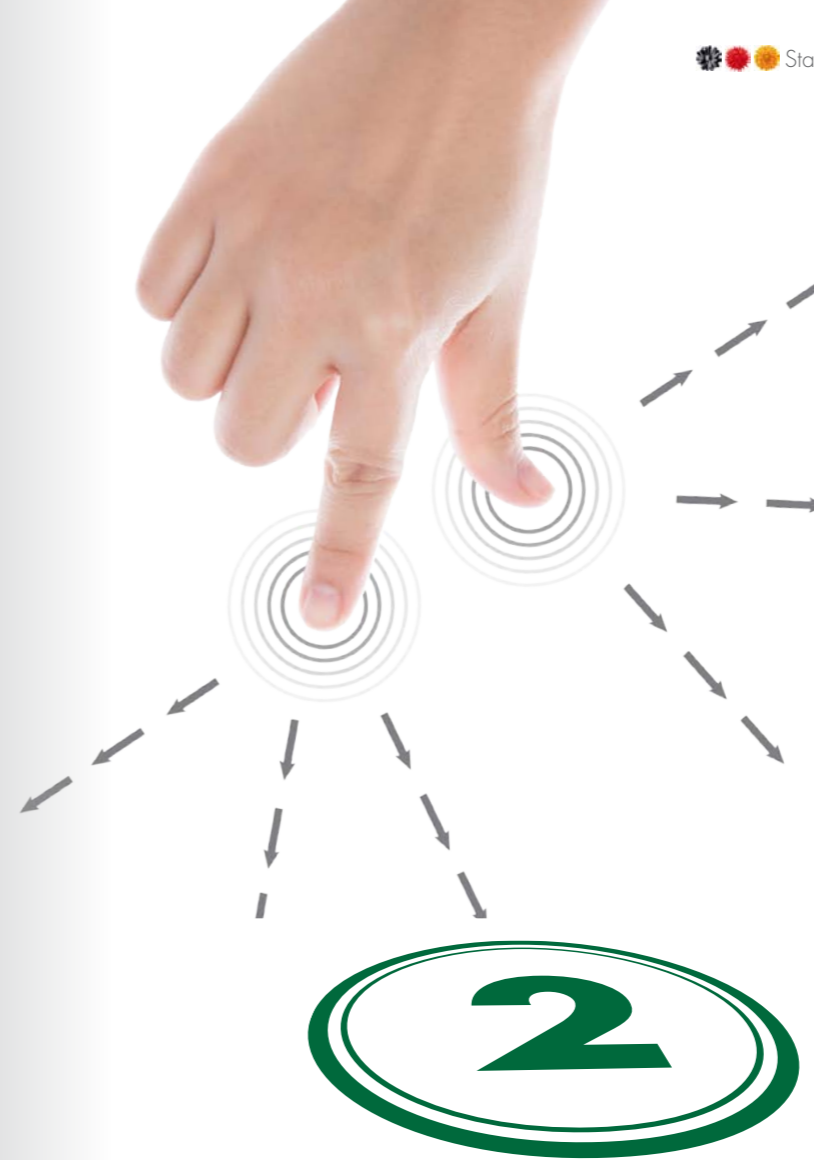


Remember...
...your travels in Germany!

Step 2: Make it known!

As the expert in your field, you are the best judge when it comes to promoting research in Germany effectively. German research opportunities are most likely to be mentioned during informal conversations. In some cases, however, you might want to talk about the German research landscape in greater detail. To make this as easy as possible for you, we have put together some informational material and made it available on the "Research in Germany" portal.

[www.research-alumni.de/
information-material](http://www.research-alumni.de/information-material)



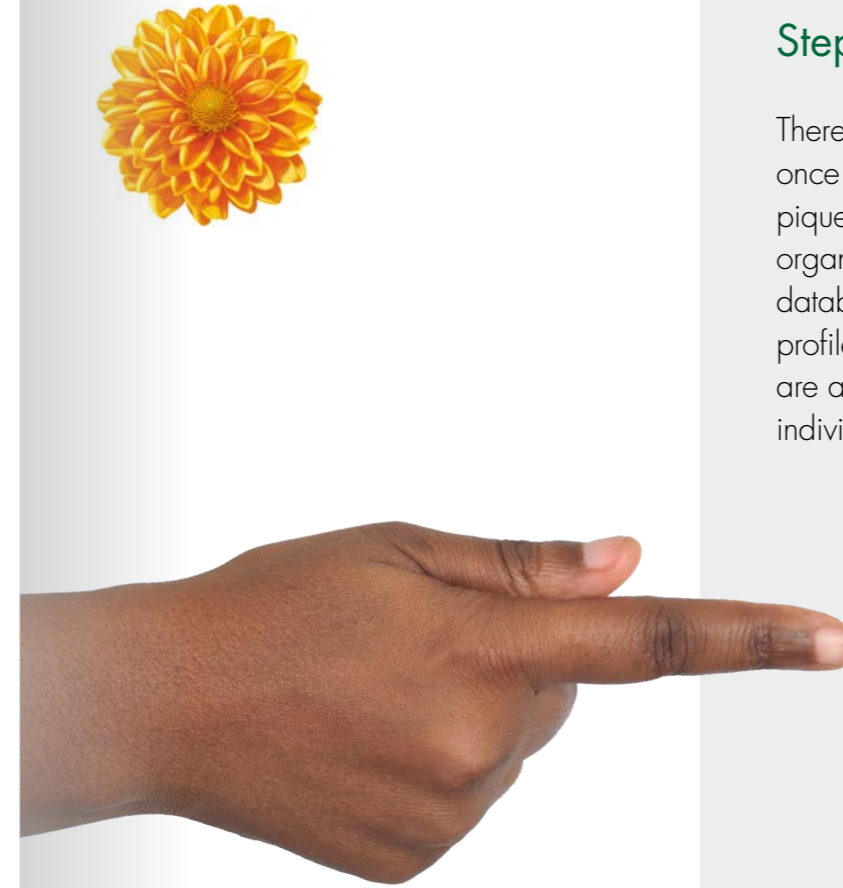
The website features a selection of downloadable brochures on varying aspects of Germany and its research environment.

Ready-to-use presentations of different lengths are also available for presenting the salient facts about Germany as a research location. These can be used as stand-alone lectures or easily integrated into your own presentations.



Step 3: Point the way forward!

There are plenty of informational resources available once interest in a research stay in Germany has been piqued. Several of Germany's major research funding organisations have English-language websites and databases that provide detailed information on funding profiles and funding opportunities. Young researchers are also welcome to contact our helpdesk directly for individual advice.



For general information on research and funding in Germany:

The "Research in Germany" portal provides an overview of the research and funding opportunities for international PhD students, junior researchers and advanced senior researchers in Germany. It also delivers the latest in science and research news from Germany and reports on upcoming events. The site offers practical information for foreign scientists and researchers looking for a job in research, for research collaborations with German research organisations, or a research stay in Germany.

www.research-in-germany.de

**Research in
Germany**



Land of Ideas

KISSWIN.DE is an online communication and information platform for young researchers providing information and consulting services on the German research funding system and on career opportunities in German academia.

www.kisswin.de/en



Remember...
...the people in Germany!

For research profiles of German universities and non-university research institutions:

The "Research Map" enables users to search for the 'institutional research priorities' of German universities, i.e. fields of research that constitute a distinctive part of the respective university's institutional profile and that feature close collaboration between at least 25 professors.

www.hrk.de/activities/research-map



The "Research Explorer" database contains over 19,000 German university institutes and non-university research institutions, searchable by geographic location, subject and other criteria.

www.dfg.de/en/research-explorer



For practical information concerning a research stay in Germany and for information on funding opportunities:

EURAXESS Germany provides practical information concerning professional and daily life and helps researchers and their families to plan and organise their move to Germany, providing assistance in all matters related to mobility.

www.euraxess.de/portal/Incoming_en.html

Furthermore, the EURAXESS Germany funding database contains more than 80 programmes from funding organisations throughout Germany.

www.euraxess.de/portal/funding_database_in.html

Researchers can also contact the EURAXESS Germany/ National Coordination Point at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for personal assistance regarding research and funding opportunities in Germany.

info@avh.de



■ Thank you for your support!

We appreciate your help in spreading the word on research opportunities in Germany and are looking forward to welcoming your young researchers!

We also hope to see you again soon – perhaps you already have an idea for a new collaboration with your German colleagues?



Imprint

Published by

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
Jean-Paul-Strasse 12
53173 Bonn
GERMANY

Responsible

Dr. Barbara Sheldon

Concept and editorial work

Dr. Marion Stange

Design

Bosse und Meinhard GbR
Wissenschaftskommunikation, Bonn

Last update

September 2012

Picture credits

Title: Fotolia (Anatoliy Babiy), Bosse und Meinhard

3: Bosse und Meinhard

5: fotolia (2), Frank Luerweg (Universität Bonn),
Frank Homann (Universität Bonn), Volker Lannert
(Universität Bonn), Bosse und Meinhard,

7: Fotolia (jannoon028), Photocase (Andreas
Mang), Bosse und Meinhard (2), Fotolia (Sergey
Borisov), Photocase (Manun)

9: Shutterstock (Ecoimages)

11: Fotolia (Mumpitz), Photocase, Photocase (Si-
monthon), Anne Heine (Universität Bonn), Barbara
Frommann (Universität Bonn)

13: Fotolia (rvlsoft)