

Module

Walter Benjamin Fellowship

This module can only be applied for under the Walter Benjamin Programme.

I Objective

If you would like to conduct your research project abroad,¹ you can apply for a Walter Benjamin fellowship for this period.

II Description

The Walter Benjamin fellowship enables researchers in their early training phase to conduct their own research project abroad and to benefit from additional career-promoting conditions. With the fellowship, you can focus exclusively on your research project and advance your qualifications. You should be integrated into a research environment that supports you in carrying out the project and gives you the opportunity to plan your next career steps in a targeted manner.

¹ If your host is a former Humboldt visiting researcher, please apply initially only to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Only if the Humboldt Foundation has rejected or declined your proposal or has responded that there is no possibility of funding for you are you eligible to apply to the DFG for a Walter Benjamin fellowship. In this case, please attach the letter from the Humboldt Foundation to your proposal.

1 Fellowship

The basic fellowship amount is made up of the basic fellowship and, where applicable, additional benefits such as a foreign allowance, cost of living allowance and child allowance. You can find out the exact fellowship amount by using our award calculator:

www.dfg.de/award_calculator

Further details can be found in the Guidelines on Benefits for Walter Benjamin Fellows with Children (DFG form 55.05).

www.dfg.de/formulare/55_05/

2 Travel allowance

- round-trip travel (via the least expensive route);
- travel for the spouse/life partner and children if they accompany the fellow at the fellowship location for longer than six months within the fellowship period abroad.

3 Travel support for establishing or intensifying scientific contacts in Germany

The DFG supports your efforts to re-establish or intensify contacts in Germany during your stay abroad. For this purpose, the DFG provides funding for active participation at a conference, a specialist colloquium, for a lecture trip, to present research findings, for an interview in Germany (provided the costs are not covered by the host), or to establish or maintain scientific contacts in Germany.

Fellows who have spent at least six months abroad funded by the DFG are eligible to apply. For fellows staying abroad for at least 18 months, even if part of the stay is funded from outside sources, the DFG can provide up to two travel allowances.

The trips are to be completed within four years after beginning the DFG fellowship.

4 Return grants for reintegration into the German research system

To facilitate the reintegration of grant recipients back into the German research system, fellows funded by the DFG may submit a supplemental proposal for a return grant. The proposal, in the form of a simple letter, should be sent to the DFG staff who administered your preceding award. Funding should be used to enable fellows to become reintegrated into the German research system, for example by presenting research findings in

Germany or for measures preparing them for their scientific/academic careers following their return to Germany.

Return grants can be applied for as domestic fellowships for a maximum of six months. To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must reside outside Germany, funded by a DFG fellowship, and the overall length of their stay within the framework of the Walter Benjamin fellowship must be at least 12 months. The return grant must be taken up no later than four years following the start of the fellowship.
- This period of up to four years must have been spent continuously abroad and at least half of this time on a Walter Benjamin fellowship.
- The proposal must be submitted from abroad no later than two months prior to the intended utilisation of the return grant.
- Applicants may not be on leave from a German research institution for the duration of the fellowship with the possibility of again working at the institution upon return from abroad.

The return grant should be used to continue research in the same subject area. To carry out such research, recipients must be affiliated with a university or other research institution. An invitation from the host institution must be attached to the proposal.

The subject area to be pursued during the grant period must be specified in the proposal. A project description is not necessary.

If the stay abroad was not funded exclusively by the DFG, the continuous period abroad must be documented.

A declaration must be included with the proposal stating that the applicant will not be funded by other means upon return.

The grant will be terminated once the fellow receives or is eligible for a position or other sources of funding in Germany (including from the Federal Employment Agency). Recipients must claim any unemployment benefits to which they are entitled (ALG 1). It is not possible to receive a return grant if the Walter Benjamin fellowship is followed by a domestic phase that is funded through the Walter Benjamin position.

Recipients must notify the DFG immediately if they start a new position or accept other forms of funding.

III Proposal Instructions

Please submit with your proposal a letter from your host confirming that the necessary work-related resources will be provided by the foreign host institution; the letter should also mention any additional support that will be provided.

Partial fellowships may only be applied for in special personal situations (e.g. disability, serious illness of a close relative, or similar). In such cases, please contact the DFG Head Office. Also note the Guidelines on Benefits for Walter Benjamin Fellows with Children (DFG form 55.05).

www.dfg.de/formulare/55_05