

# Marketing Presentation

## 1st Slide/Cover sheet

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation grants research fellowships and research awards to highly qualified scholars and scientists from all countries and from all fields of research.

*At this point, the presenter should indicate his or her own connection to the Humboldt Foundation. The presenter should explain why the work of the foundation is so important to him (or her) that he (or she) is willing to present information on the programs, even though he (or she) is not a Humboldt staff person.*

*At the same time, the presenter should also explain that, because he (she) is not on the foundation's staff, he (she) will not be able to answer every question in detail. Those who would like specific information should visit the foundation's web site or contact the foundation directly.*

## **2nd Slide:**

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is named after Alexander von Humboldt. Humboldt is famous as a universal genius, scientific explorer, and researcher of South America. In his later years, he funded young scholars through his personal fortune. Humboldt died in complete poverty. When he died, he left as his legacy the idea of supporting talented young researchers, but he left no financial resources.

In 1860, just one year after Humboldt's death, the first Humboldt Foundation was founded. The foundation exists in its current form since 1953. It is financed primarily by public funds from the German Foreign Ministry, the Ministry for Education and Research, and the Ministry for Economic Cooperation.

Since 1953, the foundation has supported more than 20,000 scientists and scholars from over 130 nations, and has developed a strong and lasting international network.

### **3rd Slide:**

This excerpt from the statutes illuminates the Humboldt Foundation's guiding principle, or mission statement: The Humboldt Foundation supports highly qualified scientists and scholars. There are no quotas in terms of nations or fields of research. Therefore, the granting of fellowships and awards is based solely on the scholarly excellence of the individual applicant.

#### **4th Slide:**

The programs of the Humboldt Foundation fall into two categories: There are programs for scholars and scientists who are resident outside of Germany when they apply, and there are programs for scholars and scientists who are resident in Germany at the time of application.

## 5th Slide:

The Humboldt Foundation offers the following five types of programs:

- ? Humboldt Research Fellowships for scholars and scientists from all nations and fields of research who would like to come to Germany to conduct long-term research.
- ? Georg Forster Research Fellowships for scholars and scientists from developing countries who would like to come to Germany to conduct long-term research.
- ? Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships for scholars and scientists in Germany who would like to travel to another country for a long-term research stay.
- ? Various programs for scholars and scientists from specific nations or regions.
- ? Humboldt Research Awards for exceptional scientists and scholars from all nations to acknowledge their accomplishments.

The Humboldt Research Fellowship is the foundation's most important program, and also the largest program in terms of the number of fellowships granted. We will now look at this program more closely.

## **6th Slide:**

The Humboldt Research Fellowship Program is open to scholars and scientists from all nations and fields of study who would like to conduct long-term research in Germany. There are no quotas in terms of nation or field of study. Only the scholarly excellence of the applicant matters.

## 7th Slide:

The Humboldt Research Fellowship Program has the following requirements for application:

- ? Applicants must have completed a doctoral degree, be in the process of completing a doctoral degree, or have completed a degree equivalent to a doctorate.
- ? Before submitting an application, applicants must have established contact with a scholar or scientist in Germany who is prepared to function as an "academic host." This means that the scholar or scientist in Germany is willing to mentor the visiting scholar and to provide a workspace in the event that the application is successful. Ideally, the applicant knows the German host personally, is familiar with the host's work and publications, or has learned of the German scholar via the internet or other sources.
- ? Applicants must craft a research proposal in which they explain what they hope to achieve in Germany.
- ? At the time of application, applicants should have published articles in internationally recognized journals.
- ? The age limit is 40 years.

## **8th Slide:**

At the time of application, scholars in the natural and engineering sciences should have a good working knowledge of English. English skills are usually sufficient because most research groups in Germany conduct themselves in English.

Applicants from the humanities and social sciences should be proficient in German. In cases where the research plan does not require German language skills, the applicant should possess working knowledge of English.

Regardless of the field of study, the Humboldt Foundation finances language courses for fellows and their spouses upon their arrival in Germany in order to develop or expand German language skills. These language skills are important for the routines of daily life, and also allow scholars to participate in German society and cultural life.

## **9th Slide:**

The only criterion for selection is the academic excellence of the applicant. The scholar's qualifications are judged on the basis of the proposed research plan, publications in internationally recognized journals, and letters of recommendation. Neither the country of origin nor the field of research bear any weight in the selection process.

## **10th Slide:**

Information about the foundation's programs and the necessary application forms are available on the Humboldt Foundation's web site. Applications for the Humboldt Research Fellowship Program may be submitted to the Humboldt Foundation at any time. In cases where it is not possible to submit the application directly to the foundation, applicants may send them to German embassies or consulates, or to regional offices of the DAAD. These locations will forward the application materials to the Humboldt Foundation.

Once an application has been submitted, the Humboldt Foundation begins the process of assessing the proposed research plan. Each application is reviewed by independent experts from the applicant's field of study. This process takes from three to five months. The final decision on the application is made by an independent selection committee appointed by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, which includes expert representatives from the fields in question.

## 11th Slide:

The Humboldt Research Fellowship Program supports scholars in a variety of ways. First, the foundation covers the cost of travel to Germany. Then, once in Germany, the Humboldt Foundation finances language courses for fellows and their spouses. Throughout the stay in Germany, the fellows receive a stipend which should allow them to maintain a standard of living comparable to those of colleagues in Germany who are at similar points in their careers. At the same time, the foundation takes into account the individual circumstances of each scholar (for example, by providing additional funds to support accompanying dependents).

Scholars may apply to stay in Germany for a period of six to twelve months. The stay may be extended to a total of 24 months. But even after the full 24 months, the connection to the Humboldt Foundation does not end. The foundation believes in maintaining long-term contact with the scholars it supports.

Scholars and scientists who are supported by the Humboldt Foundation, often referred to as "Humboldtians," may apply for a range of follow-up programs. For example, one may apply to come to Germany for additional research stays or to participate in conferences. Or, scholars in countries with low foreign currency reserves may apply for funds to purchase books or equipment.

International partnerships facilitate long-range cooperation between institutes in Germany and other parts of the world, and include funding for research stays, and in some cases, funding for equipment. However, this type of support is available only to Humboldtians from specific fields in specific countries. For more information, please visit the foundation's web site.

Through the Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship Program, which I will explain shortly, Humboldtians have the opportunity to host German post-doctoral scholars at their home institutes. Similarly, they may invite scholars from Germany to visit their institutes for shorter time periods as well.

Occasionally, the Humboldt Foundation hosts alumni events in locations around the world. In addition, many countries have Humboldt associations, allowing Humboldtians in the region to keep in touch and to organize activities. A list of the Humboldt associations worldwide is available on the foundation's web site.

## **12th Slide:**

Another of the foundation's main programs is the Georg Forster Research Fellowship Program.

### **13th Slide:**

The defining characteristic of the Georg Forster Research Fellowship is the group of scholars it targets. This program is directed to scholars and scientists from developing countries, where their careers are often shaped by adverse circumstances. In order to account for some of these circumstances, the age limit for this program is 45 years. The scholar's proposed research should be relevant to the development of his or her home country. The foundation's hope is that the research results will address the specific challenges of the scholar's country of origin.

The application process and the support provided correspond to that of the Humboldt Research Fellowship Program.

Those who are interested in this program should find out if their home countries are part of the Georg Forster Research Fellowship Program before submitting an application. (A current list of eligible countries is on the foundation's web site).

## **14th Slide:**

Feodor Lynen Research Fellows form another large group supported by the Humboldt Foundation.

## **15th Slide:**

The Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship Program is available to scholars and scientists from Germany who would like to conduct long-term research outside of Germany. One requirement of this program is that fellows spend their research stays at the institutes of hosts who themselves were supported by the Humboldt Foundation. In the other words, the proposed host of a Feodor Lynen Research Fellow should be a Humboldtian.

This program is also free of quotas in terms of the field of research. Only the academic qualification of the applicant counts.

## 16th Slide:

The Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship Program has the following requirements for application:

- ? Applicants must have completed a doctoral degree, or be in the process of completing a doctoral degree.
- ? Before submitting an application, applicants must have established contact with a scholar or scientist in the host country who is prepared to function as an "academic host." The host should have received a Humboldt Research Fellowship or Humboldt Research Award in the past. In other words, he or she must be a Humboldtian. The Humboldt host should be prepared to mentor the visiting scholar and to provide a workspace. Ideally, the applicant knows the host personally, is familiar with the host's work and publications, or has learned of the scholar via the internet or other sources. In certain instances, the Humboldt Foundation can provide contact to potential hosts for Feodor Lynen Research Fellows.
- ? Applicants must develop a research plan explaining what they wish to accomplish during their stay in the host country.
- ? At the time of application, the applicant should have published articles in internationally recognized journals.
- ? The age limit is 38 years.

**17th Slide:**

At the time of application, scholars should have good working knowledge of English.

**18th Slide:**

The sole criterion for selection is the academic excellence of the applicant. The scholar's qualifications are apparent through the proposed research plan, publications in internationally recognized journals, and letters of recommendation. In this program, as in the others, there are no quotas for nations or fields of research.

## **19th Slide:**

Applicants for the Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship Program may be submitted to the Humboldt Foundation at any time.

Upon receiving applications, the foundation begins a process of review. Each application is reviewed by independent experts from the applicant's field of research. This process takes from three to five months. The final decision on the application is made by an independent selection committee appointed by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, which includes expert representatives from the fields in question.

## **20th Slide:**

The Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship supports the scholar in many ways. First, the foundation covers the cost of the scholar's travel from Germany to the selected host country. In the Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship Program, the amount of the stipend depends on the age, familial status, and host country of the scholar. Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships are granted for a period of 12 months. The maximum length of sponsorship is four years. After the scholar returns to Germany, it is the objective of the Humboldt Foundation that he or she will keep in contact with the Humboldt hosts. With this in mind, the Humboldt Foundation offers financial support for mutual visits as part of the follow-up program. Measures such as transitional funding, contributions to assist with the interview process, and others are designed to facilitate the scholar's reintegration into the German professional world.

The Humboldt Foundation requests the assistance of the host institute in providing funding for the Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship. The amount of assistance requested depends on the resources of the host country and host institute, and, as past experience has shown, varies from case to case. These details are resolved on an individual basis between the Humboldt Foundation and the host institute.

**21st Slide:**

In addition to the programs already mentioned, the foundation offers programs for scholars and scientists from specific countries or regions. For current information on these programs, please see the Humboldt Foundation's web site.

## **22nd Slide:**

The Humboldt Foundation offers a number of programs with a specific regional focus, which are open only to scholars and scientists from certain countries or regions. However, the number of fellowships granted each year within these programs is very limited.

There are regional programs for the United States, Japan, and other regions of the world. Details about these programs are available on the foundation's web site.

All of the special regional programs have one thing in common: the proposed research plan must be specifically relevant to Germany. The age limits vary. The application process and the type of support offered resemble that of the Humboldt Research Fellowship.

## **23rd Slide:**

In addition to research fellowships, the Humboldt Foundation also bestows research awards.

## **24th Slide:**

Humboldt Research Awards are intended for exceptional, internationally recognized scholars and scientists. In contrast to the research fellowships, there are no age limits for research awards. Awardees are recognized for the many accomplishments in their life's work.

Another point of contrast to the research fellowships is that one cannot apply for the Humboldt Research Award. Potential awardees must be nominated by scholars and scientists in Germany.

Awardees receive a monetary award. In addition, they are invited to come to Germany for a research stay.

In addition to these awards, the foundation bestows awards on scholars at different stages of their careers. Details are available on the foundation's web site.

## **25th Slide:**

From 1996 to 2000, the majority of research fellowships was granted to applicants from Europe. Europe, as you see represented here, includes both western and eastern European countries, as well as the Russian Federation.

Many fellowships were also granted to applicants from Asia.

Humboldt Research Fellowships are awarded solely on the basis of academic excellence. For this reason, the statistics indicate from which countries the most qualified applications were received. The statistics are not the result of any strategy on the part of the Humboldt Foundation.

## **26th Slide:**

From 1996 to 2000, the majority of Humboldt Research Fellowships was granted to applicants from the natural sciences.

Here, too, Humboldt Research Fellowships are awarded only the basis of academic excellence. The statistics indicate from which fields the best applications were received. There was no deliberate plan on the part of the foundation.

## **27th Slide:**

It is very important to obtain current and detailed information on program requirements shortly before applying for a Humboldt program. Information about all the programs, the application process, special programs, and new developments are available on the foundation's web site at <http://www.humboldt-foundation.de>. The necessary application documents may be downloaded from the web site as well.

Questions may be directed to [select@avh.de](mailto:select@avh.de)