

Call for Applications

Themed Week “Water between Extremes”

Datum: October 09 – 11, 2024

Deadline: 12th March 2024, 14.00 CET

In its "Themed Weeks", the Volkswagen Foundation funds scientific symposia on various pre-determined topics. The symposia are carried out in the same week at the Xplanatorium Schloss Herrenhausen conference center in Hanover and accompanied by a supporting program organized by the Foundation.



area of research: Natural, Engineering and Social Sciences



type of funding: Organising an event (research/ science)



target group: Researchers at German universities and research institutions, optionally international co-applicants

1 Objectives

Water means life. However, water can also endanger our lives. The extremes are growing stronger in between which the important geo-resource water is moving. Climate change and excessive use by industries and the agricultural sector are causing droughts into great depth of our soils and descending groundwater levels. All this is causing major challenges in our everyday lives since drinking water and crop yields are becoming scarcer. On the other hand, inland floodings and storm surges on coasts are becoming more frequent. Cities and regions are often not designed to be able to absorb and drain such masses of water.

With the themed week “Water between Extremes” (October 09-11, 2024) the Volkswagen Foundation intends to connect scientists with non-scientific actors to jointly address how to improve the management of water extremes. The symposia should address the following question: “How can we adapt our habitats and ways of living to be better prepared for extreme conditions?” Moreover, approaches for the transfer of the knowledge gained into practice and a corresponding involvement of actors at the respective levels of implementation are expected. International participants should be involved in topics that cannot only be dealt with at the national level or where the exchange of experience with other nations seems useful.

Funded symposia should have a clear thematic focus within this outline and develop a program to deal with this in an interdisciplinary manner and, if necessary, with an international group of participants. In addition to the program of funded symposia, there will also be joint sessions for exchange between the participants of all symposia.

2 Scope of Funding

Symposia funded by the Foundation take place at the conference center Xplanatorium Herrenhausen Palace, Hannover, within the framework of the Volkswagen Foundation’s “Theme Weeks”. The venue offers meeting and conference rooms of different sizes, together with a professional organizational as well as technical infrastructure. In addition to the provision of this infrastructure and handling of organizational tasks, symposia are supported with funds covering personnel as well as non-personnel or publication costs. Support can be made available for events with usually up to 50 participants.

Funds may be requested to cover the following costs:

Personnel costs

- Funds for student assistants during preparation, running and follow-up of the event in an amount not exceeding 7,000 EUR.

Travel costs

- Expenses for accommodation for all participants (please estimate 140 EUR per night/person).

- Travel expenses for all participants. Please also refer to the Volkswagen Foundation's Recommendations for sustainable traveling (see section 6). Please estimate the following sums per participant in the cost plan for travel to and from the event in total (please note that only costs actually incurred can be settled with the Foundation after the event):
 - Participants from Germany: 250 EUR
 - Participants from the rest of Europe: 500 EUR
 - Participants from the east coast of the USA: 1,000 EUR
 - Participants from the rest of the world: 1,500 EUR

Non-personnel costs, e.g.

- Expense allowances for freelancers (e.g. journalists or moderators), who are actively involved in the symposium.
- Consumables in an amount not exceeding 500 EUR.
- Funds for childcare costs, e.g. travel expenses, accommodation costs or allowances for caregivers. If you apply for funds for childcare, please briefly explain how it is planned and how the costs are composed.

Publication expenses. The Foundation expects that the results of the meeting will be published online and open access. Typical conference proceedings and pure print publications will not be funded.

As part of the grant, the following services are provided by the Volkswagen Foundation:

- hotel reservations (please do not make any bookings yourself),
- provision of conference equipment at the conference center Xplanatorium Herrenhausen Palace,
- catering at the conference center Xplanatorium Herrenhausen Palace.

Joint Program

Applicants are requested to include the following slots into their program, in order to foster exchange and networking of the participants of all symposia among each other and with representatives of the Foundation:

- Wednesday, October 09th: 9:30 to 13:00 (joint welcome, get-to-know, presentation of symposia topics, lunch),
- Thursday, October 10th: 12:00 to 13:00 (lunch) and from 16:00 (joint activity and dinner),

- Friday, October 11th: 12:00 to 13:00 (lunch) and 15:00 to 16:00 (joint closing).

Please note that the joint program will be in English if the working language of at least one of the funded symposia is English

Open Science

The Foundation is committed to Open Science ([Open Science Policy](#)). It is therefore expected that project results will be published open access and that data collected will be made available for scientific use via recognized repositories (see [NFDIs](#), [re3data](#), and [RIsources](#)). If data collection is intended, the essential information is to be presented in a data management plan ([basic data management plan](#) of the foundation or a more detailed data management plan of the respective discipline). In case no data is generated in the project, this needs to be explicitly stated in the application.

Note: For the later preparation of the project's research data, in the case of a grant, the offer '[Data Reuse - Additional funding for the preparation of research data](#)' is available.

General Information

The Foundation cannot be held responsible for any obligations entered into prior to the receipt of grant approval.

Applications that have been or are intended to be submitted in this or a similar form to another funding organization will not be processed by the Foundation. Applications that do not meet the formal requirements will not be submitted for review. The Foundation can only award funds to scientific institutions.

3 Application and Selection Procedure

Eligible to apply are researchers from all fields and at all career levels after the PhD who are employed at a scientific institution in Germany. Researchers from foreign institutions can be involved as co-applicants. Applications can be submitted in German or English.

3.1 Procedure

A decision is usually made within two months of the deadline. In addition to the objectives of the respective theme week described in section 1, the scientific quality of the event, the use of innovative and interactive event formats, and the conclusiveness of the overall concept are decisive factors in the review process. The Foundation also expects active participation of PhD students and postdocs as well as a significant inclusion of female scientists among both the speakers and the participants.

4 Application Checklist

Applications have to be submitted online via the Volkswagen Foundation's electronic application system. If you are submitting your application together with other researchers, please make sure that all applicants register in the application portal and assign themselves to the application. Please note that there is a maximum of four co-applicants per application.

4.1 Electronic Application – Instructions

Please read the information about the electronic application system on the website of the Volkswagen Foundation prior to submitting your application. Information can be found in the document "[Electronic Application System – Instructions and Tips](#)". It is important that applicants register all involved parties early on in the process. Without a user profile it is not possible to invite co-applicants or to submit an application.

If you have technical questions about using the electronic application system, please contact support@volkswagenstiftung.de.

4.2 Application documents e.g.

4.2.1 Proposal according to the template file

Please use the template provided at the end of section 6 and on our homepage.

4.2.2 Planned Programme

4.2.3 Budget Plan

Please enter a budget plan directly in the application system. Please note that funding is only granted to one institution, which is why you should submit a joint budget plan even in case of multiple applicants.

4.2.4 Curriculum Vitae of every applicant

CVs should consist of a maximum of two pages per applicant (including a selection of relevant publications). Please combine all CVs in a single file.

5 Contact

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6 More Information

- [Website “Themed Week Water between Extremes”](#)
- [Template proposal \(download\)](#)
- [FAQs for applicants](#)
- [Application System](#)
- [Electronic application made easy - instructions and tips](#)
- [Useful Information and downloads](#)
- [Recommendations for sustainable traveling](#)