

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR VISITING SCHOLARS

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The Volkswagen Foundation awards fellows only within the scope of its funding programs. Grants are awarded exclusively to scientific institutions such as universities or non-university scientific institutions, but not to individual applicants. Accordingly, the Foundation accepts applications only in consultation with the institution concerned.

The criteria and requirements set out in the information for application for the respective funding offer are decisive for the possibilities of applying for a scholarship. When applying, it is therefore essential to follow the instructions in the relevant information for application.

The following is a summary of the general award conditions as well as the principles for the amount and processing of the scholarship. The information and documents that are generally required can be found in the attached checklist.

1. Purpose and group of persons

To promote research and international research cooperation, the Volkswagen Foundation provides fellowships to support research projects, supplementary studies, additional training and/or study and research stays of scientists in Germany.

2. Scholarship amount

Scholarships are tax exempt, insofar as the requirements of Section 3 (44) of the German Income Tax Act (Einkommenssteuergesetz) are met, and consistent of the following individual amounts, insofar as no deviating regulation apply to special funding programs:

2.1. Basic scholarship

The basic scholarship is set according to the scholarship holder`s education:

	monthly
Graduate students without a doctorate or without at least three years of relevant research experience	1,700 Euro
Doctoral or graduate students with at least three years of relevant research experience	2,300 Euro

After passing the oral doctoral examination, the scholarship may be granted to doctoral candidates.

Scholarships may be awarded for a period of up to 12 months.



2.3. *Family supplement*

If there are children, spouses or parents living in the household of the fellow during the funding period who have no income of their own, a family allowance of 500 Euro per month is granted. Child benefit is not included in the scholarship, if necessary, it must be applied for from the relevant authority.

2.4. *Insurances*

The scholarship does not constitute an employment relationship; it is not remuneration within the meaning of Section 14 of the German Social Security Code IV (Sozialgesetzbuch IV). Social security contributions will not be covered by the foundation.

However, the scholarship holder should ensure that she/he has sufficient insurance coverage (health, accident and personal liability insurance); a subsidy for these costs will not be granted.

3. *Other*

Acceptance of a scholarship obligates the scholarship recipient

- to concentrate her/his efforts on the project described in her/his study or work plan,
- not to take up gainful employment (the Foundation does not object to occasional marginal income up to the maximum of 150 Euro per month),
- to report on the progress of her/his studies and to submit a final report to the Foundation at the end of the funding period via the project leader/supervisor of the project without being requested to do so.

Furthermore, the scholarship holder undertakes to inform the Volkswagen Foundation – via the scientific institution – through which the scholarship is processed, without delay if

- the project is interrupted, modified, prematurely completed or canceled;
- she/he is remunerated for her/his scientific activities by contributions from third parties or if she/he or a third party with her/his approval derives an economic benefit from the funded study project;
- she/he receives a scholarship from another source;
- (in the case of an approved family allowance) the in the household living family members listed under No. 2.3 receive income;
- changes occur in the other personal circumstances that are relevant for the scholarship.

The Volkswagen Foundation reserves the right,

- to credit contributions from third parties towards living expenses or material equipment,
- to demand repayment of the scholarship plus appropriate interest compensation or an appropriate share in the earnings from any economic earnings that result directly from the granted scholarship;

- to change the grant or to withdraw the grant if the scholarship holder does not comply with the conditions applicable to the scholarship, in particular her/his above-mentioned obligations;
- to make additions and amendments to the special grant guidelines and to adjust current grants to changed circumstances without retroactive effect.

The scholarship holder must expressly agree to the above regulations vis-à-vis the recipient of the grant.