

**Information for
Applicants 110_a**

Funding for Refugee Scholars and Scientists from Afghanistan

Applications can be submitted anytime (after prior consultation only)

- I. Objectives**
- II. Funding Opportunities**
- III. General Conditions**
- IV. Application and Selection Procedure**
- V. Application Checklist**

I. Objectives

The rapid advance of the Taliban and their seizure of power in August 2021 forced many Afghans to flee their country. The Volkswagen Foundation wishes to support exiled Afghan academics in continuing their research in Germany and to contribute to their integration into German society as well as the local science system.

II. Funding Opportunities

Funding can be allocated for Afghan researchers who have fled to Germany. In terms of residence legislation, the status of the person to be sponsored has to allow him/her to stay and work at the respective host institution in the context of the provided funding. Eligible to apply are exiled Afghan researchers from any academic field who

- who have to leave the country or have already left it recently
- possess academic qualifications (e.g. publications)
- possess potential to be integrated into the (research-related) job market

Not eligible are

- persons who have access to residence in safe countries due to multiple citizenship or other circumstances and German citizens
- researchers who hold German university entrance qualifications (“Bildungsinländer”)
- researchers who have been funded in the context of the Philipp Schwartz Initiative or other funding programs directed at “scholars at risk”

Funding of up to 150,000 EUR offers scholars at all levels of their career (doctoral candidates, post-docs, established researchers) the opportunity to pursue research projects of up to two years in a German working group.

Researchers in Germany who have been funded during the last 10 years by the Foundation may host threatened foreign researchers and integrate them either in their running projects or in their wider research context.

Alternatively, grant recipients of projects currently funded by the Foundation may integrate refugee scholars in their ongoing research projects. While new, “self-contained” projects may not be proposed, additional sub-projects are eligible which are complementary or an add-on to the ongoing project and allow for the integration of the refugee scholars. In this case, integration into the ongoing research project is explicitly encouraged.

All additional sub-projects should be completed within the timeframe “end of ongoing main project + 6 months”. The project currently funded must have a remaining term of at least one year at the time of submitting the application.

III. General Conditions

Entitled to apply are **researchers who are currently or have been funded by the Foundation during the last 10 years** (date of grant letter is decisive) and who wish to integrate scholars under threat into their research context. Please note that researchers under threat cannot directly apply in this program. Please contact potential hosts in Germany who are eligible to apply.

Funding will be granted primarily to cover personnel expenditures for the refugee scholars. In addition, it is also possible to grant funds to cover non-personnel costs. The maximum amount to be requested is 150,000 EUR.

For guest researchers, fellowships or employment contracts may be requested for a period of up to two years. The amount depends on the career level as well as the family status of the foreign guest researcher. In addition to personnel expenditures, funds for travel and other non-personnel costs of up to EUR 10,000 per year can be applied for.

For additional sub-projects within the context of currently funded research projects, personnel and non-personnel costs may be requested for a period of up to two years. Depending on the respective residence status and in accordance with the personnel funds granted in the current project, employment contracts can also be applied for.

IV. Application and Selection Procedure

In any case, before drafting detailed proposals, applicants should first **contact the program manager** (see below).

The application has to be submitted by the researcher willing to host the Afghan scholar. Applications can be filed at any time as there are no deadlines or closing dates. The Foundation will take the effort to process proposals and communicate decisions quickly.

The Foundation is unable to process applications that have been submitted in identical or similar form to any other funding body.

V. Application Checklist

Applications (5-6 pages with max. 2,500 words) must be submitted to the Volkswagen Foundation electronically via the [online application system](#). On the system, you need to provide the following information as "enclosures" (pdf-files):

- Research proposal considering the:
 - benefit expected to accrue from the proposed cooperation to the refugee academic as well as the host
 - design and setup of the proposed collaboration
 - relation of the project to the host's research context and/or substantiation of its relevance for the ongoing project
- Short CV and a list of the five most relevant publications (if applicable) of the scholar to be involved

- Work plan
- Budget
- Statement of support by the host regarding the:
 - current professional situation and personal circumstances of the scholar to be involved
 - academic qualification and assessment of this person's future career prospects (in research/academia) in Germany
 - contact initiation
 - support of further integration
- Statement of support by the research institution (Dean or Head of Department) regarding the:
 - willingness to administer all funds and provide an appropriately equipped workplace for the approved funding period
 - integration into the institutional setting also beyond the concrete scientific context (language courses, housing, psychological support, assistance with immigration formalities or residence legislation, etc.)
- Miscellaneous (optional)

Prior to submitting your application, please inform yourself about the electronic application portal of the Volkswagen Foundation via which you have to submit your application. Information can be found in the document "Electronic application made easy - instructions and tips".

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Additional Information

[Application FAQs](#)

[Information for Applicants from Abroad](#)

[Electronic Application System – Instructions and Tips](#)