

## **Funding for Refugee Scholars and Scientists**

**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

A growing number of scholars are threatened by war and persecution in their own countries and are seeking refuge in Germany to continue their work in a safer environment. The Volkswagen Foundation wishes to support threatened foreign researchers in pursuing their research careers in Germany and to contribute to their integration into German society as well as the local science system. The funding aims to open up employment opportunities and future perspectives in research and science for these scholars.

## II. Funding Opportunities

Funding can be allocated for researchers who have fled their home country in the recent wave of refugee migration. 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 threatened researchers from any academic field and any country of origin who

- do not reside or have not been resident outside their own country for more than five years
- possess academic qualifications (e.g. publications)
- possess potential to be integrated into the (research-related) job market

Not eligible are

- persons that 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 is open to scholars at all levels of their career (doctoral candidates, postdocs, established researchers). The Foundation offers two funding opportunities:

### 1. Program for Guest Researchers

The fellowship program provides researchers in Germany who were funded during the last 10 years by the Foundation with the means to host threatened foreign researchers for a period of up to 24 months.

### 2. Additional modules within the context of currently funded research projects

As an alternative option, grant recipients of projects currently funded by the Foundation can – in addition to the grants already made – integrate refugee scholars into their research projects. This funding line allows for creating additional modules within the context of currently funded research projects. In their content, these modules need to be complementary or an add-on to the (overarching) ongoing project. In this case, the integration into the ongoing research project is explicitly encouraged and required.

Additional modules can be granted for a period of up to three years, depending on the remaining duration of the overarching project. All modules 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 were funded by the Foundation during the last 10 years** (date of grant letter is applicable) 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 expenditure for the refugee scholars. In addition, it is also possible to grant funds to cover non-personnel costs.

1. Within the scope of the **program for guest researchers**, scholars under threat can be supported for up to two years. The amount of the fellowship or employment contract depends on the career level as well as the family status of the foreign guest researcher. In addition to the scholarship, funds for travel and other non-personnel costs of up to EUR 10,000 per year can be applied for.
2. For **additional modules** within the context of currently funded research projects, the maximum amount the Foundation can allocate is EUR 200,000 (personnel and non-personnel costs) for a period of up to three 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 for their subject area or the respective funding line**.

The application has to be submitted by the researcher willing to host the scholar under threat. Applications can be filed at any time as there are no deadlines or closing dates. It takes the Foundation about 2 months to process proposals and communicate decisions.

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
  - Guest researcher program: relation of the project to the host's research context
  - Additional modules: description of the proposed additional module and a clear 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”.**

## **Contact**

**Guest researcher program:** Program director in charge of subject area

**Additional modules:** Program director in charge of currently funded project

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## **Additional Information**

[Application FAQs](#)

[Information for Applicants from Abroad](#)

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