



Henriette Herz Scouting Programme

Guidelines on Ex-post Evaluation

The [Henriette Herz Scouting Programme](#) is a three-step process. In the first step, scouts are selected by a selection committee who can then, in a second step, identify up to three potential research fellows abroad and recommend them for a Humboldt Research Fellowship (see [Guidelines on the Recommendation Procedure](#)). If the results of the formal review by head office are positive, the fellowship will be granted directly. The research fellowships are granted and managed by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in the framework of the Humboldt Research Fellowship Programme. In the third step, described below, an ex-post evaluation of the research fellows is conducted 12 months after the fellowship has been completed.

Scientific quality is assured by focussing, on the one hand, on selecting suitable scouts and, on the other, on the success of the sponsorship recipients selected by these scouts. Only if independent peer reviewers declare sponsorship to have been successful after the sponsorship period, can the scouts apply to take part in the programme once again. This then involves a further competitive peer-review process. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation aims to recruit as many new scouts as possible for the programme. Up to 50 percent of new rights to recommend research fellows can be granted to previously active scouts.

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to review the performance and results of the research fellows in a peer-review process and achieve comparability. The review should be conducted approx. 12 months after the research fellowship has been completed so that enough time can elapse for the results of the stay to produce the first publications, build further collaborations and prepare or launch next career moves. Both the research fellows and the scouts are expected to take part in the ex-post evaluation. The ex-post evaluation is, moreover, the basis for a possible re-application to become a scout.

Basis of the ex-post evaluation

The following documents form the basis for evaluating the success of sponsoring the research fellows:

- **Immediately after sponsorship:** a final survey of research fellows and scouts using a standardised online questionnaire
- **Twelve months after sponsorship has come to an end:**
 - Report by the research fellow on her/his academic progress since the end of the fellowship as well as on the results of the research stay itself, citing
 - relevant publications / patents,
 - lectures presenting research results,
 - development of new or expansion of existing (international) collaborations,
 - approved research proposals.
 - Statement by the scout evaluating the research results and the success of the stay

Procedure

In line with normal procedures in the Humboldt Research Fellowship Programme, both the research fellows and the scouts will be asked to write a final report based on a standardised

online questionnaire immediately after sponsorship. These documents will form the initial basis for the ex-post evaluation.

Twelve months after completing the fellowship, the research fellows and the scouts will be contacted by Humboldt head office and asked to submit the above-mentioned additional documents online. These documents will subsequently be forwarded to two independent peer reviewers who will prepare written reviews. On the basis of these reviews we will inform first the Selection Committee and then the research fellows and scouts about the results of the review.

If a scout would like to re-apply for further rights to recommend research fellows, the review will constitute part of the new review process. A new application may only be submitted 12 months at the earliest after the ex-post evaluation of the last fellowship-recipient has been completed.