

HIDA TRAINEE NETWORK: FAQs FOR APPLICANTS

Who can apply?

The HIDA Trainee Network is for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers who work at a Helmholtz Center and have a strong connection to the information and data sciences. Doctoral researchers should have concluded the first year of their doctoral studies at the time of the exchange.

What funding options are there?

1) Receive funding for travel and material expenses (up to 2.000 EUR per month): For Helmholtz-internal doctoral and postdoctoral researcher with active employment contracts with one of the centers throughout the duration of research stay.

2) Receive a research grant to finance your research stay (2.860 EUR per month plus subsidies, have a closer look in our [Guidelines for Research Grants](#) on our website): For scientists who already hold a doctorate degree and are affiliated with a Helmholtz Center, but are formally employed at a German university or other partner organization (Helmholtz-affiliated postdocs). This option is also available to postdocs who have a contract with one of the Helmholtz Centers (Helmholtz-internal postdocs).

Please speak with your supervisors in advance to find out what funding option might fit best in your case. It may also be helpful to contact your personnel department.

I am not a data scientist – can I also apply?

If your planned research project at another Helmholtz Center is strongly related to data and/or information science, then you can apply.

I am currently working with a fellowship at one of the Helmholtz Centers – can I also apply?

If you have a postdoc position at one of the centers, you may apply for a research grant (funding option 2). Please also speak with your supervisor and/or personnel department at your Helmholtz Center.

We are currently in the legal process of reviewing whether funding option 2 may also apply for fellowship holders pursuing their doctoral studies.

I am not associated with one of the Helmholtz Centers – can I also apply?

Currently, this program is only open for researchers associated with one of the Helmholtz Centers. However, we strongly encourage you to keep up to date about our other courses and exchange programs via our website.

How long is the exchange financed?

Usually, HIDA financially supports one-, two or three-month-long research stays at another Helmholtz Center. Once your research stay is granted, it cannot be divided into separate stays (e.g. you cannot split a three-month-long research stay in three separate one-month-long visits).

When can I start my exchange?

Please note that the review process may take approximately 3 months after application deadline for the HIDA Trainee Network. You should also take into consideration that you need some time to organize your exchange. In general, you should start your research stay at another center within 12 month after acceptance for the HIDA Trainee Network.

Where can I find affordable accommodation during my research stay?

Helmholtz Centers often have guesthouses. You may ask your host supervisor at another Helmholtz Center, if he or she could help you find accommodation. HIDA is also there to support wherever possible.

What happens after submission?

Please refer to our website for further information on our selection process. The review process may take approximately 3 months. You will be informed by email whether your application was successful or not.

My application was successful – What happens next?

You will get an email notification (with your supervisors in cc) with further information on how to proceed.

How am I reimbursed or paid?

The funding approval is made in agreement with the centers. In case of funding option 1, your travel expenses will usually be reimbursed by your home center (sending institution) through approval of a business trip. In case of funding option 2, the research grant will be paid by the host center (receiving institution). Detailed information will follow after successful application.

Please note that in general you must submit receipts (e.g. for travel expenses) for both funding options, so keep them safe.

What happens after my exchange?

At the end of your research stay at another Helmholtz Center, applicants are asked to provide HIDA with a report of their activity at the host center. The final report should be submitted to the HIDA Office within 3 months of completing the research stay. Upon receipt of the final report, the HIDA Office will send a certificate of participation in the HIDA Trainee Network. Detailed information will follow.

Can I apply several times?

Yes, you can apply several times. In case your application is granted, you might be able to apply with another project next time.

Where can I find additional information and help?

You may find further information on our website. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need help. A list of contact persons at the Helmholtz Centers can also be found on our website.



When will the next application round begin?

The next application round will probably start beginning of 2021.