

HIDA TRAINEE NETWORK: Information on funding options

Each Center of the Helmholtz Association is an independent legal entity and may be subject to different regulations. Please speak with your [contact at your center](#) in advance to determine which type of funding is suitable and whether there are exceptions to and deviations from the following funding options.

1. Receive funding for travel and material expenses (up to 2.000 EUR per month): For Helmholtz-internal doctoral researchers and postdocs who have existing employment contracts with one of the centers for the duration of the research stay. You organize your research stay as a business trip. HIDA reimburses your Helmholtz Center (Home Center) for the expenses after the end of the exchange.

The usual provisions in place at the Helmholtz Center determine which travel expenses are eligible for reimbursement; this typically includes transportation expenses, expenses for accommodation (e.g. at a guest apartment), and additional meal expenses that are covered by per diems. The Helmholtz Center can also claim material expenses to HIDA after the exchange is completed. These include, among others:

- Expenses for processing power
- Acquisition of software needed for the exchange
- Hard disk
- Laptop*

The materials listed above become the property of the Helmholtz Center following their purchase.

*A laptop may be purchased in principle. However, this may significantly reduce the maximum amount of funding available from HIDA to cover the travel and material expenses.

2. Receive a research grant to finance your research stay (2.860 EUR per month plus allowances; see further details in the [HIDA Guidelines for Research Grants](#)): For Helmholtz-associated postdocs who are affiliated with a Helmholtz Center but are employed at a university or other partner organization. You will take a leave of absence from your home organization and receive the research grant from the Helmholtz Center that is hosting you (Host Center). HIDA reimburses the Helmholtz Center for the expenses after the end of the exchange.

Grants are not subject to tax, provided the requirements under § 3 number 44 of the German Income Tax Act are met. A legal assessment (which can be provided upon request) certifies that this HIDA research grant is exempt from tax as a matter of principle. Nonetheless, we would like to point out that the tax-exempt status of this grant is subject to individual verification by the respective tax office when reviewing the grant holder's tax return.

Health insurance coverage is required in Germany. We recommend that you contact your current health insurance provider to discuss the options available to you during the period you are receiving the HIDA research grant. In order to cover these expenses, you can receive an allowance of 400 EUR per month by presenting proof that you have health insurance coverage. This allowance and the other allowances listed in the guidelines for the grant are lump sums.

All other types of social insurance (e.g. unemployment insurance, pension insurance) are voluntary and therefore are not covered by the allowances that are part of the research grant. Under certain conditions, recipients of the grant can submit an application to the Federal Employment Agency for additional voluntary insurance in the unemployment insurance scheme within a month of commencing their work. Further information can be obtained from the local employment agencies (<https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/en/welcome>). You also have the option of paying in to the statutory pension scheme if you wish. We recommend that you contact the HR department or the respective insurance providers for advice if you have any questions regarding this.

If you are working in Germany on a visa, we recommend that you contact your foreigners' authority to determine whether an interruption to your status as a grant recipient would affect your status. Further information is also available from the following hotline: <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/about-the-portal/contact/hotline/>.