HiDA

HELMHOLTZ VISITING RESEARCHER GRANT: FAQs FOR APPLICANTS

What is the Helmholtz Visiting Researcher Grant?

The Helmholtz Visiting Researcher Grant is an exchange program for postdoctoral researchers and scientists at research-driven companies without direct connection to the Helmholtz Association and its centers. It enables short-term research stays with a focus on (applied) information & data sciences at one of the Helmholtz Centers financially supported by the Helmholtz Information & Data Science Academy (HIDA).

Where can I find an overview of all centers belonging to the Helmholtz Association?

The Helmholtz Association consists of 18 independent research centers all over Germany. You can find an overview of all our centers here. We have six research fields: Energy; Earth & Environment; Health; Aeronautics, Space and Transport; Matter; and Information. Find out more about our research fields here.

I am not a data scientist, computer scientist, information scientist, etc. – can I also apply?

If your planned research project is strongly related to (applied) data and/or information science, then you can apply. For instance, you are a biologist by training and want to learn and analyze cell processes with bioinformatics analyses at the host center.

I am a postdoc at a partner university or institutions associated with one of the Helmholtz Centers – can I also apply?

Yes, you can apply – you may also check our HIDA Trainee Network whether this program suits you better.

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

If you are a postdoc at one of the Helmholtz Centers and are interested in a research stay at another Helmholtz Center, please check our HIDA Trainee Network.

During the application process, I am asked for contact details of my host supervisor – can my host supervisor be a postdoc?

Your official host supervisor for your application needs be the head of the research group or division in which you wish to carry out your research project. During your exchange you may be supervised by a senior postdoc or scientist.

How long is the exchange financed?

The funding will be provided for three months. 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 Helmholtz Visiting Researcher Grant. You should also take into consideration that you need some time to

organize your exchange. In general, you should start your research stay at your host center within 12 month after acceptance for the program.

Where can I find affordable accommodation during my research stay?

Helmholtz Centers often have guesthouses. You may ask your host supervisor, 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 further information on how to proceed.

How am I reimbursed or paid?

The funding approval is made in agreement with the centers. The research grant will be paid by the host center. Detailed information will follow after successful application. You may also have a look into our information sheet on funding.

Can I take vacation during the exchange?

Of course, you can. You can organize the vacation days individually, but they should be taken in agreement with the groups involved.

What happens after my exchange?

At the end of your research stay, applicants are asked to provide HIDA with a report of their activity at the host center. You will be notified to submit a report by email. 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 you a certificate of participation in the HIDA Visiting Program. Detailed information about the report will follow by email.

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.