

HIDA TRAINEE NETWORK: FAQs FOR APPLICANTS

What is the HIDA Trainee Network?

The HIDA Trainee Network is a Helmholtz-wide exchange program for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers who work at one of the Helmholtz Centers and whose research has a strong connection to (applied) information or data sciences. It enables short-term research stays at another Helmholtz Center financially supported by HIDA.

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

If your planned research project at another Helmholtz Center 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 another Helmholtz Center.

What means Helmholtz-associated Postdoc?

It means that you are a scientist who already holds a doctorate degree and are affiliated with one of the Helmholtz Centers, but are employed at a German university or other partner organization. You usually have a contractual link with the Helmholtz Center (e.g. guest researcher contract or similar). If you are unsure, please get in touch with the [contact person](#) at your Helmholtz Center you work at whether you are eligible.

I am currently working with a fellowship at one of the Helmholtz Centers or I am a Helmholtz-associated doctoral researcher – can I also apply?

We would recommend getting in touch with the [contact person](#) at your center to find out whether funding for travel and material expenses might be possible – however this varies between centers.

I have no association with one of the Helmholtz Centers – can I also apply?

Currently, this program is only open for researchers working at or are affiliated with one of the Helmholtz Centers. If you are an external doctoral or postdoctoral researcher, you can apply to the [Helmholtz Visiting Researcher Grant](#).

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 should be the head of the research group in which you wish to carry out your research project. Of course, you can be supervised by others, e.g. a senior postdoc or scientist, during your exchange.

How long is the exchange financed?

Usually, HIDA financially supports one- to 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 four to five months after the application deadline for the HIDA Trainee Network, depending on the number of applications. 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 months 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, 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. 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. Please note that in general you must submit receipts, so keep them safe. 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. You may also have a look into our [information sheet on funding options](#), which you can find on our website.

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 Trainee Network on your request. 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.