

Module

Walter Benjamin Fellowship



Disclaimer: The English translation of this document is provided for informational purposes. In the event of a discrepancy between the English and the German versions, the German text takes precedence.

This module can only be applied for under the Walter Benjamin Programme.

I Objective

If you would like to conduct your research project abroad, you can apply for a Walter Benjamin fellowship for this period.

II Description

The Walter Benjamin fellowship enables researchers in their early training phase to conduct their own research project abroad and to benefit from additional career-promoting conditions. With the fellowship, you can focus exclusively on your research project and advance your qualifications. You should be integrated into a research environment that supports you in carrying out the project and gives you the opportunity to plan your next career steps in a targeted manner.

1 Fellowship

The basic fellowship amount is made up of the basic fellowship and, where applicable, additional benefits such as a foreign allowance, cost of living allowance and child allowance. You can find out the exact fellowship amount by using our award calculator.

www.dfg.de/award_calculator

Further details can be found in the Guidelines on Benefits for Walter Benjamin Fellows with Children (DFG form 55.05).

www.dfg.de/formulare/55_05

2 Travel Expense Allowance

- round-trip travel expenses (in the form of a lump sum);
- travel expenses (in the form of a lump sum) for the spouse/life partner and children if they accompany the fellow at the fellowship location for longer than six months within the fellowship period abroad.

www.dfg.de/formulare/14_33

3 Travel support for establishing or intensifying scientific contacts in Germany

The DFG supports your efforts to re-establish or intensify contacts in Germany during your stay abroad. For this purpose, the DFG provides funding in the form of travel expense allowances for active participation at a conference, a specialist colloquium, for a lecture trip, to present research findings, for an interview in Germany (provided the costs are not covered by the host), or to establish or maintain research contacts in Germany. To apply for a travel expense allowance, please use DFG form 14.33.

www.dfg.de/formulare/14_33

Fellows who have spent at least six months abroad funded by the DFG are eligible to apply. For fellows staying abroad for at least 18 months, even if part of the stay is funded from outside sources, the DFG can provide up to two travel allowances.

The following expenses will not be reimbursed: accommodation, fees for conferences and other incidental travel expenses

Expenses for travel to scientific events within the host country or to other European countries are not eligible for reimbursement. Such expenses should be covered using funds from the allowance for direct project costs.

Travel support (travel expense allowances) must be claimed during the fellowship period. In the event of host funding immediately following the fellowship, this period may be extended by up to one year.

4 Return grants for reintegration in the German research system

To facilitate the reintegration of grant recipients back into the German research system, fellows funded by the DFG may submit a supplemental proposal for a return grant. The proposals, in the form of a simple letter, should be sent to the DFG staff who administered your preceding award. Funding should be used to enable fellows to become reintegrated into the German research system, for example by presenting research findings in Germany or for measures preparing them for their scientific/academic careers following their return to Germany.

Return grants can be applied for as domestic fellowships for a maximum of six months. To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must reside outside Germany, funded by a DFG fellowship, and the overall length of their stay within the framework of the Walter Benjamin Fellowship must be at least 12 months. The return grant must be taken up no later than four years following the start of the fellowship.
- This period of up to four years must have been spent continuously abroad and at least half of this time in a Walter Benjamin fellowship.
- The proposal must be submitted from abroad no later than two months prior to the intended utilisation of the return grant.
- Applicants may not be on leave from a German research institution for the duration of the fellowship with the possibility of again working at the institution upon return from abroad.

The return grant should be used to continue research in the same research area. To carry out such research, recipients must be affiliated with a university or other research institution. An invitation from the host institution must be included in the proposal.

The research area to be pursued during the grant period must be specified in the proposal. A project description is not necessary.

If the stay abroad is not funded exclusively by the DFG, the associated stay abroad is to be documented.

A declaration must be included with the proposal that shows that the applicant will not be funded by other means upon return.

The grant will be terminated once the fellow receives or is eligible for a position or outside funding (including funds from the Federal Employment Agency) in Germany. Recipients must claim any unemployment benefits to which they are entitled (ALG 1). It is not possible to receive a return grant if the Walter Benjamin fellowship is followed by a domestic phase that is funded through the Walter Benjamin position.

Recipients must notify the DFG immediately if they start a new position or accept other forms of funding.

III Proposal Instructions

Please submit with your proposal a letter from your host confirming that the necessary work-related resources will be provided by the foreign host institution; the letter should also mention any additional support that will be provided.

Partial fellowships may only be applied for in special personal situations (e.g. disability, serious illness of a close relative, or similar). In such cases, please contact the DFG Head Office. Also note the Guidelines on Benefits for Walter Benjamin Fellows with Children (DFG form 55.05).

www.dfg.de/formulare/55_05