

Guidelines

on Benefits for Walter Benjamin Fellows with Children

1 Child allowance

A monthly child allowance is paid for children up to 18 years of age (in accordance with section 2 (1) (1 – 2) of the Federal Child Benefit Act (*Bundeskindergeldgesetz*, BKGG).

This allowance totals €400 per month for the first child and €100 per month for each additional child.

Children of life partners can only be considered if it can be satisfactorily shown that they lived in the fellow's household prior to the start of the fellowship (e.g. verification by the local German registration office [Einwohnermeldeamt]).

2 Support for costs associated with supplemental childcare – fellowship extension or childcare allowance

If, during the fellowship, you are accompanied abroad by your children who are younger than 12 years of age, you can select from the following options:

2.1 Fellowship extension

The fellowship can be extended by the duration of the fellowship for a maximum of 12 months if, at the time the fellowship is granted, you have at least one child who is younger

than 12 years of age. This also applies if the first child is born during the course of the fellowship.

2.2 Childcare costs

Instead of extending the fellowship by 12 months, it is possible to apply for childcare costs. Here, a maximum of the basic monthly fellowship amount is available for each extension month that is not used. This conversion of monthly basic allowances to childcare costs can be handled flexibly. For example, the fellowship can be extended by five months and a childcare allowance can be received for seven months.

The childcare costs must be verified by submitting invoices and payment receipts. The following items may be reimbursed:

- the placement of children in kindergartens, day care centres, day nurseries, etc., or with other childcare providers,
- costs for international schools at the fellowship location,
- the employment of childcare specialists, preschool/after school carers, as well as household helpers, provided they care for a child,
- babysitters and au pairs,
- supervision during homework time.

During stays in countries where the cost of professional childcare is above average (e.g. in the USA), additional expenses that exceed the basic allowance can be recognised in justified, individual cases. A requirement for this, however, is that the fellow contribute 50% of the costs in excess of the basic fellowship amount.