UNIVERSITÄT BAYREUTH

CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE
"ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT"

Application Guidelines

Starter Grants

Who may apply?

The Centre offers its Starter Grants to applicants in all disciplines that can be supported at the University of Bayreuth[*]. Applicants for Starter Grants must have lived outside Germany for a minimum of 12 months in total in the 18-month period prior to submission of the application. Researchers of German nationality are eligible to apply if their regular residency is abroad with the prospect of at least five years. Potential applicants who have completed their school education and one university degree or one university degree and their doctorate in Germany are subject to the regulations applying to German citizens. Researchers currently based at German research institutions are not eligible for this programme.

We view the diversity of our awardees as an asset and are expressly committed to the goal of gender equality. Female scholars and anyone who can help make the research profile of the university more diverse are strongly encouraged to apply. In case of equal suitability, preference will be given to applicants of underrepresented groups.

In case of doubt about the eligibility of the applicant, submission of documentary evidence may be requested after the call deadline.

Are there specific research priorities?

There are no research priorities. Researchers from all disciplines represented at the University of Bayreuth may apply, for exceptions please see below. Both disciplinary and interdisciplinary projects are possible.

Who may act as local host at the University of Bayreuth?

Potential hosts of applicants for a Starter Grant are all active professors of the University of Bayreuth as well as any structurally independent scientists with a long-term perspective at the University of Bayreuth to ensure the sustainability of the international collaboration.[*]

How will the local host be involved?

The local hosts act as primary research collaboration partners for the Grantees. In this capacity, they also provide their Grantees with appropriate office space and an up-to-date infrastructure including access to library systems and laboratories. They recommend suitable terms and

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[*] Members of the Cluster of Excellence (as defined by § 11 (3) of the Cluster Rules) cannot act as host if the research focus of the application is on African Studies. This is due to regulations of the German Research Foundation stipulating that the Centre cannot provide funding to enhance resources of the university's Cluster of Excellence. In case of doubt, please contact our office before applying.

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coordinate the decision with their department and Dean as well as with the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre.

The local host at the University of Bayreuth receives a monthly subsidy of 500 € (humanities and social sciences), respectively 800 € (natural, life and engineering sciences) during the Grantee's stay at the University of Bayreuth. This subsidy is paid independent of project costs that are related to the Starter Grant application itself, for which a budget plan is submitted. This budget plan can cover costs of the Grantee and the host.

When is the application deadline?

The deadline for 2025 is **October 31, 2025; 23:59 h CET**.

Please note that the Guidelines are rigorously binding and applications not adhering to them will not be considered.

Whom may I contact for information when preparing my application?

Candidates preparing an application for a Starter Grant are encouraged to contact the Office of the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre for further inquiries. Before doing so, we kindly ask you to have a look at our Frequently Asked Questions.

How do I apply?

Please submit your **complete application** via our online form**.**

In addition to the information requested in the online form, applicants need to submit the following documents:

1. **Exposé of the planned research project:** a statement of purpose jointly signed by applicant and host(s), describing how the Starter Grant would contribute to the innovation of the scientific or technological environment at the University of Bayreuth, and the specific goals to be achieved. Also state the surplus benefit of the Starter Grant in case a research collaboration already exists.
The statement of purpose (max. 8 pages excluding list of literature) should also include the following elements:
    a. research aims,
    b. work schedule,
    c. an identification of possible additional (interdisciplinary) collaboration partners at the University of Bayreuth as well as a short explanation as to why this collaboration would be beneficial for the University of Bayreuth, and
    d. a budget plan
    e. criteria for success, e.g. papers, workshop, conference, joint teaching units…(these criteria are part of the evaluation by the Advisory Board when selecting the Grantees)
2. **CV** in tabular form (max. 3 pages)
3. **List of publications** of the applicant (covering last 10 years only, highlighting the 5 most relevant publications for the project; max. 2 pages)

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In addition to the above, the local host(s) at the University of Bayreuth need to submit their **supporting letter** via email to the Office of the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre until the given deadline as detailed in the Application Guidelines Host. In the supporting letter the host(s) explicate the applicant's scientific excellence and suitability, and state their role and involvement in the collaborative research project. Ultimately, the host should include the facilities provided by the hosting institute (max. 2 pages).

For the afore-mentioned attachments, please conform to the following formatting standards: *font* Arial, 11 pt; *line spacing* 1.5; *all margins* 2.5 cm. Page limits may not be exceeded. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. The application should be submitted in English.

How are the applications evaluated?

The Bayreuth Humboldt Centre requests external expert reviews for each application. The reviewers will evaluate the applications according to the following criteria:

- Academic record and academic performance of the applicant to date,
- Future potential of the applicant,
- Quality of key publications specified in the application,
- Originality, innovation potential and clarity of the suggested research outline, and
- Feasibility of the research project in cooperation with the local host and interconnectivity with the University of Bayreuth beyond the local host.

A funding decision will be made by the Centre's External Advisory Board based on the applications and their reviews.

When will a decision be made?

An announcement of the decisions made on the applications is expected in April 2026.

What are the important rules I need to adhere to?

1. The Starter Grant commences when the applicant accepts the Grant by signing the Declaration of Acceptance. If the applicant does not accept the Grant within **one month** of having been offered the Grant, the Centre withholds the right to revoke the Grant.

2. The Grant will be transferred to the Grantee when arriving at UBT. The Centre recommends to visit UBT shortly after accepting the Grant. Several visits to UBT are possible. If the Grantee does not visit UBT within 12 months after signing the Declaration of Acceptance, the Grant is automatically revoked.

3. The report on the Grant must be submitted no later than 15 months after the Declaration of Acceptance has been signed. In the report, the Grantee must address in how far the self-defined criteria for success have been fulfilled. In case the Grantee decides to apply for a Booster Grant, the fulfillment of the criteria will play an important role in the evaluation of the Booster Grant application.

Timetable

Call for applications	July 2025
Application deadline	October 31, 2025
Review procedure	October 2025 - March 2026
Awarding decision	April 2026
Notification of applicants	April 2026
Signature of Declaration of Acceptance	May 2026
Starting date of Starter Grant	May 2026
Earliest possible date of visit to UBT	May 2026
Latest possible date of visit to UBT	May 2027
Report due	August 2027

Items asked in the online form for your preparation:

Programme: Please select Starter Grant

General Information
- First name*
- Middle name
- Family name*
- Title*
- Date of birth*
- Place of birth*
- Country of birth*
- Gender*
- Nationality*
- Country of permanent residence*
- Stays in Germany within the last 18 months (incl. type of stay):*

Contact Information
- E-Mail*
- Website
- Street*
- Town*
- State
- Postal code*
- Country*
- Telephone Number*

Research Profile
- Research Discipline (Major)*
- Research Discipline(s) (Minor)*
- Research Tags*
- Date of completed PhD*

Current Professional Employment

List your current professional employment including the names of the employer and the institutional address. Please briefly list your duties and responsibilities.

Name of employer (Institution)
Current position
Country
Employed in this position since
Duties and responsibilities (max. 700 characters including blanks)

Most Relevant Former Professional Employments (if applicable)

Max. 3 employers

Time period
Position
Institution
Duties and responsibilities (max. 700 characters including blanks)

Additional Relevant Information

List of awards and accomplishments (if applicable)

Please list your most relevant awards and accomplishments (max. 5 awards)

Year / Award

List of relevant duties and responsibilities beyond your professional employment (if applicable)

Max. 5 entries

Year / Responsibility

Research Project

Working title (max. 200 characters including blanks)*
Abstract (max. 1000 characters including blanks)*
Main disciplinary fields of the research project
You can add up to three further disciplines by pressing the plus button.*

Intended date of the first visit to UBT

Intended starting date of Grant (within one year after official acceptance of Grant). Report is due 3 months after end of project duration (max. 15 months after acceptance of Grant).
Start Date – End Date

Hosts

Main Host and Second Host (if applicable)

Title, Name*
Current position at the University of Bayreuth*
Institute*
Faculty*
Employed at UBT since*
E-Mail*
Website*

Have you collaborated with one of your prospective hosts in the past? If so, how? (max. 500 characters including blanks)

Suggestion of Referees

List the names and contact details of 4-6 academic referees. Please describe briefly in what capacity the referee knows about you and your research and indicate if there is any conflict of interest (e.g. collaborations within the last 3 years, personal relationships or similar)

Name*
Academic Title*
Institution*
E-Mail*
Website*
Relation to Referee*

Additional Question

How did you learn about this Call for Applications?

Documents for Submission

Please include all information outlined in the relevant Application Guidelines.

Outline of your research proposal* **(Upload)**
Curriculum Vitae* **(Upload)**
List of publications* **(Upload)**

Please note that to finalize your application, your main host needs to forward their signed <u>supporting letter</u> to the Office of the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre as a pdf via <u>email</u> until October 31, 2025.

Declaration of Accuracy and Consent

Ich versichere die Richtigkeit der oben gemachten Angaben. Änderungen und Zusätze werde ich dem Bayreuth Humboldt Centre umgehend bekanntgeben. Die Hinweise zum Antrag sowie die [Ausführungen zur Datenerfassung](#) habe ich zur Kenntnis genommen, insbesondere, dass die Verantwortung für die Vollständigkeit dieses Antrags bei mir liegt. Ich erkläre mich damit einverstanden, dass die Bewerbungsunterlagen beim Bayreuth Humboldt Centre verbleiben.

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Furthermore I agree to inform the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre immediately of any changes and amendments. I have taken note of the information provided in and regarding this application as well as the [notice about the storage of personal data](#). I accept responsibility for the completeness of my application. I agree that this application and accompanying documents shall remain with the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre.

all fields with (*) are required

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