

**3<sup>rd</sup> Research Alumni Conference Germany 2015**  
**Berlin, Germany**  
**23 – 25 September 2015**

**with a preceding satellite event**  
**“European Perspectives on Research Alumni Work”**

**Programme for Research Alumni Advisors**  
(last update: 22 September 2015)

*Please note that this programme is subject to change.*

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**Concept**

This conference brings together more than 100 international scientists and scholars at an early to medium-stage career phase (postdocs to junior professors) from all subject fields and all countries outside of Germany who are presently carrying out research stays at universities and research institutions in Germany. Their next career move may take them to their home country or another country in the world – or they may opt to remain in Germany if given the opportunity. They all have in common an interest in science and academia in Germany and in remaining in contact with their present German host institution that has nominated them for participation in the conference; they are potential future research alumni - if they choose to be and irrespective of their geographical whereabouts.

The conference aims to provide an overview of current trends in international scientific mobility and of the German research landscape as well as of funding programmes available to international researchers. Participating researchers will furthermore have the opportunity to network with like-minded people. Also present will be the representatives of the German universities and research institutions who have nominated the participating international scientists and scholars. The nominating institutions have all successfully participated in a contest “research alumni strategies” ([www.research-alumni.de](http://www.research-alumni.de)). For them, the conference will be an opportunity to meet the researchers as well as representatives of other institutions.

**Satellite event – for research alumni advisors only:**

Throughout Europe, research performing and research funding organisations are aiming to attract highly qualified researchers. It is generally understood that in order to compete on a global scale, scientists and scholars need to be internationally mobile. Many organisations throughout Europe have by now established services in order to support internationally mobile researchers who are carrying out research stays at their institutions. While these support structures are well in place, systems for ensuring that relations to guest researchers remain close after they have left are only beginning to develop. The potential of the “research alumni” once they have left - as multipliers, advisors, ambassadors for an institution - is not fully explored. The conference will look at the strategic dimension of research alumni work and the relation between initial support structures and ensuing research alumni structures within institutions. Additionally, the conference will present “best practice” from different European countries.

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**Participants**

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The 26 winners of the contests for research alumni strategies and a limited number of their future research alumni. Max. number of participants: 130.

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**Conference language**

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English

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**Conference hotel and venue**

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Leonardo Royal Hotel Berlin Alexanderplatz, Otto-Braun-Straße 90, 10249 Berlin  
[www.leonardo-hotels.com](http://www.leonardo-hotels.com)

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**Organiser**

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The conference is organised by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

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**Context**

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The conference is a constituent part of the collaborative project “International Research Marketing” which is a joint initiative by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. All the activities within the project are part of the “Promote Innovation and Research in Germany” initiative under its brand “Research in Germany”. The initiative is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.



**Wednesday, 23 September 2015**

- from 2:00 p.m.     **Registration and lunch buffet**  

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at the Leonardo Royal Hotel Berlin Alexanderplatz
- 3:00 - 3:10 p.m.     **Welcome**  

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Dr. Thomas Hesse, Deputy Secretary General, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- 3:10 - 3:20 p.m.     **European perspectives on research alumni work: Viewpoint of a German national funder**  

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With the competition for the best researchers becoming more intense, institutions throughout Europe are discovering the importance of research alumni as potential ambassadors for their institution and their country abroad. Often, researchers are alumni of more than one institution and of more than one European country – they have “multiple alumni identities”. What does this mean for national organisations working on alumni relations? How can win-win-situations be created for individual countries by incorporating a European dimension?  
  
Dr. Ulrike Albrecht, Head of Department Strategy and External Relations, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- 3:20 - 3:30 p.m.     Questions  
Moderator: Dr. Barbara Sheldon, Head of Division Strategic Planning, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- 3:30 - 4:40 p.m.     **Spotlight on research alumni work in different European countries**  

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Representatives of funding organisations throughout Europe will present their alumni work: instruments, challenges, plans.
- 3:30 - 4:20 p.m.  
(10 min each)     Dr. Martin Schaffartzik, Division Strategic Planning, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany  
Jason Codrington, Impact & Promotion Manager, Grants, Royal Society, United Kingdom  
Dr. Antony Mauvais, Secretary General, Fondation nationale Alfred Kastler, France  
Michal Pietras, Director Programme Division, Foundation for Polish Science, Poland  
Dr. Snezana Krstic, Chair, Marie Curie Alumni Association
- 4:20 - 4:40 p.m.     Questions  
Moderator: Dr. Barbara Sheldon
- 4:40 - 5:00 p.m.     *Coffee break*  

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Royal foyer

5:00 - 5:15 p.m. **European perspectives on research alumni work: Viewpoint of the European Commission**

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To reach the Lisbon goals the European Commission has launched a number of programmes and initiatives to attract researchers to Europe, from the Marie Curie funding programmes to the EURAXESS initiatives. How strong is the alumni dimension? What can be achieved on the European level, what needs to happen at the national level? What are the further plans on behalf of the European Commission concerning research alumni work? How can administrators working in alumni relations on a national level potentially benefit from the European dimension?

Kitty Fehringer, Directorate B - Innovation Union & European Research Area, European Commission, Brussels

5:15 - 5:30 p.m. Questions  
Moderator: Dr. Barbara Sheldon

5:30 - 5:35 p.m. **Brief wrap-up**

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Dr. Ulrike Albrecht

5:35 - 6:00 p.m. **Drinks and networking**

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Royal foyer

### Wednesday, 23 September 2015

- from 4:00 p.m.     **Registration**  

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Lobby at the Leonardo Royal Hotel Berlin Alexanderplatz
- 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.     **Welcome drinks and networking**  

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Royal foyer
- 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.     **Welcome dinner**  

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**Welcome** by the Deputy Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Dr. Thomas Hesse
- 8:00 - 8:15 p.m.     **After-dinner-speech: Scientists as diplomats**  
Dr. Elizabeth E. Lyons, Regional Program Coordinator, National Science Foundation, Arlington (USA)  
  
Royal 2 + 3

### Thursday, 24 September 2015

- from 8:00 a.m.     **Registration**  

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Royal foyer
- 9:00 a.m.     **Welcome and goals of the day**  

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Dr. Thomas Hesse, Deputy Secretary General, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- 9:10 - 9:30 a.m.     **Germany as a place for cutting-edge research: Major developments and characteristics of the German research landscape**  

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Over the last decade major changes have taken place in the German research landscape. While many countries worldwide have had to cut research budgets, Germany has continued to invest, which has led to improved research conditions, more competitiveness and has increased Germany's international appeal. The presentation will give an overview of major milestones and present-day hallmarks of Germany as a place for highly qualified researchers.  
  
Dr. Ulrike Albrecht, Head of Department Strategy and External Relations, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- 9:30 - 9:40 a.m.     Questions  
  
Moderator: Dr. Barbara Sheldon, Head of Division Strategic Planning, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

9:40 - 10:05 a.m. **Career tracks of scientists and scholars in Germany**

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Career tracks in research in Germany are characterised by heterogeneity. Understanding the different ways of becoming a scientist or scholar in the particular set-up of universities and research institutions in Germany, contrasting them with career paths in other countries, understanding the challenges as well as the opportunities and learning how to cope with them successfully are crucial for successful career planning.

Dr. Beate Scholz, Director, Scholz - consulting training coaching

10:05 - 10:15 a.m. Questions

Moderator: Dr. Barbara Sheldon

10:15 - 10:45 a.m. *Coffee break*

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10:45 a.m.-12 p.m. **Opportunities for continuing research collaborations**

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Germany is interested in collaborating with highly qualified scientists and scholars from all countries. While the market for permanent careers in research in Germany is limited and competitive just as in other countries, there are many opportunities available to international researchers for funding short- to medium-term research stays. These opportunities will be presented by the major German research performing and research funding organisations as well as by a representative from industry. The organisations will also look at how these programmes can be used to support strategically oriented alumni relations – in the interest of the researcher and of the host institution.

10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Dr. Martin Schaffartzik, Division Strategic Planning, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation  
Dr. Katja Lasch, Head of Division "Research Marketing", German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)  
Dr. Jörg Schneider, Head of Division International Affairs, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)  
Dr. Sebastian Höpfner, Division for International Relations, Max Planck Society  
Dr. Jennifer Schevardo, Alumni Activities and Helmholtz & Friends, Helmholtz Association  
Miguel Haubrich Seco, International Affairs, Leibniz Association  
Natalie Percsy, International Business Development, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft  
Dr. Winfried Keiper, Corporate Research, Robert Bosch GmbH

11:45 a.m.-12 p.m. Questions  
Moderator: Dr. Barbara Sheldon

12:00 - 12:45 p.m. *Lunch break*

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Restaurant Vitruv at the Leonardo Royal Hotel

12:45 - 1:30 p.m.	<i>Meet the funders</i>
	Royal 3
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	<b>Staying connected with Europe - Funding opportunities for international researchers from the European Research Council</b>
	Researchers from abroad can increasingly also turn to European organisations for sources of funding. With the start of “Horizon 2020”, the new funding frame of European research for the next seven years, even more opportunities are available. The panel will introduce the European Research Council and the funding schemes offered with a special focus on how international researchers may participate.
1:30 - 1:50 p.m.	Benjamin Turner, Senior Policy Analyst, European Research Council Executive Agency, Brussels
1:50 - 2:00 p.m.	Questions Moderator: Dr. Barbara Sheldon
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.	<b>Research alumni as multipliers: contexts, instruments, materials</b>
	The research alumni present will be divided into workshop groups in order to discuss the following questions (identical questions in all groups):
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How is the situation of researchers in your country or origin? Are young researchers aware of Germany as a place to carry out cutting-edge research? What do you think would be important in order to attract young researchers from your country to Germany?</li><li>2. What could you as research alumni do in order to inform a young researcher from your country of origin – whether you decide to remain in Germany or whether you move to another country?</li><li>3. What would be your wishes to your German host institution? How could a useful collaboration between German host institution and research alumni be arranged?</li></ol>
3:30 - 4:00 p.m.	<b>Report from the break-out sessions and conclusion</b>
	Moderator: Dr. Ulrike Albrecht
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.	<b>Coffee break and networking for research alumni and host institution representatives (with photo opportunity)</b>
	The universities and research institutions are invited to meet with the research alumni they have nominated.
6:00 p.m.	<i>Shuttle to dinner location and short guided walk around Potsdamer Platz</i>
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	<b>Conference dinner at the historic venue “Kaisersaal”</b>
9:30 p.m.	<i>Shuttle back to Leonardo Royal Hotel Berlin Alexanderplatz</i>

**Friday, 25 September 2015: Departure**