



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung / Foundation

## Programme Information

# German Research Chair in “Mathematics with specialization in Data Science” of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) in South Africa

As part of the programme initiative “German Research Chairs”, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is calling for applications for a research chair funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF) at the *African Institute for Mathematical Sciences* in Muizenberg, South Africa. AIMS South Africa ([www.aims.ac.za](http://www.aims.ac.za)) is part of the AIMS-Next Einstein Initiative ([www.nexteinstein.org](http://www.nexteinstein.org)). This initiative seeks to establish a coordinated network of 15 supra-regional centres of excellence in Africa during the next ten years to help meet the need for scientists trained in mathematics. As the first AIMS centre set up in 2003, AIMS South Africa is a model for further AIMS centres created in Africa.

The research chair, which is being advertised internationally, is designed to help strengthen university education in mathematics and research in Africa, promote networking between AIMS South Africa and German universities, and support networking amongst the various AIMS centres in Africa. Responsibility for coordination of activities related to projects at the AIMS centres in Senegal and Ghana, which are already sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, as well as the future chairs in Cameroon and Tanzania, is assumed by the research chair at AIMS South Africa. Calls for applications for research chairs at the AIMS centres in Cameroon and Tanzania are planned.

The call addresses highly qualified academics from any country who conduct application-related research in the field of **mathematics** with specialisation in **data science**, have experience in training students and doctoral candidates and possess recognisable leadership potential. The application must be supported by at least one future collaborative partner in Germany.

The successful candidate will be expected to live and work in South Africa. A joint appointment to the University of Stellenbosch and continuation of the position at the end of the sponsorship period are intended. An evaluation will be conducted by AIMS South Africa and the University of Stellenbosch for this purpose after three years of sponsorship.

## Sponsorship

The sponsorship will initially be made available for four years and will total up to 628,000 EUR. It will comprise the following items:

- salary attached to the research chair of up to 100,000 EUR p.a.
- relocation costs of the chair holder (up to 10,000 EUR once only)
- research stays undertaken by the chair holder to conduct research projects of her/his own choice at institutions of collaborative partners in Germany (up to 10,000 EUR p.a.)
- participation in national and international conferences (up to 7,500 EUR p.a.)
- coordination trips to the AIMS chairs sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (up to 2,000 EUR p.a.)
- realisation of workshops and conferences at AIMS South Africa (15,000 EUR p.a.)
- funding for specialist literature, equipment and expendable materials at AIMS South Africa (up to 20,000 EUR p.a.)

For detailed information on the use of the sponsorship amount, please refer to our [Regulations on the use of funds](#).

The chair holder at AIMS South Africa will become eligible for the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's alumni sponsorship.

## Application procedure

**There will only be one call for the research chair. Applications may be submitted by academics who**

- have completed a doctorate and have experience in teaching and supervision of students and doctoral candidates as well as recognisable leadership potential
- have an outstanding, internationally recognised research record
- are active in international scientific networks and collaborations
- have experience in scientific capacity building (research and teaching)
- conduct research in the field of **mathematics** and its applications with specialisation in **data science** and welcome the challenge of cooperating with other fields inside and outside academia
- conduct application-relevant research and are thereby able to contribute to development of an internationally recognised research location in Africa
- already have or will establish a scientific cooperation with a German institution of higher education

## Cooperation with German partners

Willingness to engage in scientific cooperation with Germany is a prerequisite. The submitted application should already include plans regarding collaboration with an academic partner based in Germany. Applicants are expected to explain convincingly how their future cooperation with researchers at one or more universities/research institutions in Germany can be developed and how junior researchers will be integrated.

An application can be submitted even if contact with a partner at a German university/research institution has not yet been established by the application deadline. In such cases, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will try to work out individual solutions with the applicants in the course of the procedure.

## **Selection procedure**

An independent selection committee, which also includes representatives of AIMS South Africa, AIMS-NEI and the University of Stellenbosch, will decide on appointment to the chair in April 2016. Selection is based on independent peer review. Suitable candidates will be invited to hold trial lectures in South Africa. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will notify applicants of the outcome shortly after the selection committee's decision. The successful candidate will be requested to take up the position as soon as possible.

The deadline for submitting applications is

**15 January 2016.**

Applications received late can only be considered subject to prior agreement.

Complete applications should be sent by regular mail to:

**Alexander von Humboldt Foundation  
Selection Department  
Jean-Paul-Str. 12, 53173 Bonn, Germany**

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation explicitly welcomes applications from qualified female academics as well as those from formerly disadvantaged researchers in South Africa.

All application documents are available on our website [www.humboldt-foundation.de](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de). In case of further questions please contact [GermanResearchChairs@avh.de](mailto:GermanResearchChairs@avh.de).

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