

Gerald D. Feldman Travel Grants: FAQs

General Information

What are the Gerald D. Feldman Travel Grants?

The Gerald D. Feldman Travel Grants support short-term research stays for scholars in the humanities and social sciences who are in the early stages of their careers. The aim is to support transnational and transregional research, as well as networking with the academic communities of the Max Weber Foundation's (MWS) host countries.

Who can apply?

Researchers of all nationalities from the humanities and social sciences who are in the early stages of their careers (doctoral candidates or postdoctoral researchers) are eligible to apply. A minimum qualification of a Master's, Magister, Diplom or Staatsexamen degree is required. There is no age limit. Staff members and scholarship holders of the MWS are excluded from applying.

Do I need to have published already?

Postdoctoral researchers should already have publications to their name. For PhD candidates, publications are desirable but not essential.

Can I reapply if my application has already been rejected?

Reapplication is only possible if this was expressly stated in the previous rejection letter.

Research projects and stays

What kind of research projects are funded?

Funding is available for research projects addressing transnational, transregional or comparative issues. The stays should primarily serve the purpose of conducting research in libraries, archives or similar research institutions.

How many countries must be visited and how long may the stays last?

At least two and no more than three host countries of the MWS's foreign institutes or branch offices, or the Richard Koebner Minerva Centre for German History in Jerusalem, must be included. Each individual stay may last up to one month. Shorter stays are also possible.

What is the maximum duration of the total funding?

Funding may be granted for a maximum of three months in total (in three different host countries).

Within what timeframe must the stays be completed?

All funded stays must be completed within 24 months of approval.

Can I apply for a research stay in Germany?

Yes, but only under certain conditions. In addition, at least two stays must be planned at MWS overseas institutes, their branch offices or at the Richard Koebner Minerva Centre. Furthermore, a confirmation of supervision from the host institution in Germany must already be available at the time of application.

Can I apply for a stay in the country where I have my main place of residence?

No. Research stays in the country where you have your main place of residence are generally not eligible for funding.

Does my project have to fit an institute's research profile?

No, this is not a formal requirement. However, projects related to the institutes' main research areas will be given priority.

Can I combine the Gerald D. Feldman Travel Grants with another scholarship?

Yes. The Gerald D. Feldman Travel Grants are specifically designed as a grant for travel abroad and cannot provide core funding for your research. Please check, however, whether other funding bodies permit the additional award of these travel grants.

Funding and financing**Which costs are covered?**

The funding covers:

- daily allowances depending on the destination country,
- documented travel costs for the return journey to and from the host institute,
- where applicable, affordable accommodation in a guest room at the institute (subject to availability).

Travel within the host country or costs incurred between individual research stays are not reimbursed.

What are the daily rates?

The daily rates vary depending on the location and currently range from €32 to €66 per day.

Are flight or train tickets reimbursed?

Yes. The costs of the outward and return journey will be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Travel Expenses Act.

Can the grant replace my full funding?

No. The daily rates are designed as an overseas allowance and supplement existing basic funding.

Application

What documents do I need to submit?

A complete application comprises:

- the completed application form,
- an academic CV,
- a project description (max. 2,000 words),
- copies of certificates,
- a list of publications (optional for PhD students),
- a reference letter,
- where applicable, a letter of acceptance from a German host institution.

In which language must the documents be submitted?

All documents must be submitted in German or English.

How should the reference letter be submitted?

The report should be emailed directly by the reviewer to the Max Weber Foundation's office: feldman@maxweberstiftung.de.

What should the project description cover?

The project description should explain the research project, the research question, the available sources and the necessity of the planned stays at the respective locations.

Selection process

What criteria are used to assess applications?

Selection is based in particular on:

- academic excellence,
- a transnational and/or comparative research question,
- the integration of the project into a thesis.

When will the selection take place?

The selection panel is expected to meet in early December.

When will I be notified of the result?

Notification will be sent by the Max Weber Foundation once the selection process has been completed.

After approval**What do I need to do if I receive funding?**

You must submit an informal letter of acceptance confirming receipt and acceptance of the funding guidelines.

When does the grant take effect?

The grant takes effect upon receipt of the signed declaration of acceptance.

When can the funds be drawn down?

The funds will be transferred upon written request. The approved grants are expected to be available from January 2027.

Can I change my travel plans at a later date?

Yes. Changes to the research project, the timetable or the host institution are possible subject to the prior consent of the participating institutions and the administrative office.

What happens if I do not commence the funding on time?

If the funding is not commenced as planned, you should contact the host institution and the administrative office at an early stage. Without appropriate coordination, the funding will lapse six months after the grant letter.

Obligations during and after the grant**What are the obligations after the funding period?**

A final report must be submitted within three months of the funding period ending. Publications resulting from the project should acknowledge the funding provided by the MWS. A specimen copy of any publications resulting from the funded project should be sent to the Foundation.

Are there any guidelines regarding academic practice?

Yes. Grant recipients are obliged to adhere to the Max Weber Foundation's principles of good academic practice.

Am I insured through the Foundation during my trip?

No. Grant recipients must arrange adequate health insurance cover themselves. The MWS does not provide any benefits in the event of illness or accident.

Deadlines and contact**When is the next application deadline?**

The next application deadline is 4 October 2026 at 23:59 (CET).

Where can I find further information?

Further information can be found on the Max Weber Foundation website:
<https://www.maxweberstiftung.de/feldman.html>

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

Email: feldman@maxweberstiftung.de