Max Weber Stiftung

Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland

Guidelines for awarding Max Weber Foundation
Gerald D. Feldman Travel Grants
(Last revised: June 2026)

I. Purpose of the program

The Max Weber Foundation (MWS) offers scientists in the qualification phase the opportunity to engage in short-term research projects at the Foundation's international institutes and their branches. Moreover, the Foundation grants funding for research placements at the Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History in Jerusalem and, under certain conditions, at a university or non-university institution in Germany. The aim of the program is to promote transnational and transregional research and to create connections between the academic cultures of the Foundation's host countries and Germany.

Grants are available for placements of at most one month in each of two or three host countries which are home to the Foundation's foreign institutes or at the Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History. Research placements in Germany can only be funded if the applicant plans at least two more placements at foreign institutes or at the Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History. Research placements within the country of a scientist's main place of residence are not eligible for grants, and applications to that effect will not be considered. For placements in Germany, a letter confirming supervision from the host institution in Germany is required at the time of application.

The placements are to be used for research, especially in libraries and archives. Beneficiaries are expected to produce transnational studies providing research with new and original ideas. The grants are targeted at highly qualified humanities and social sciences academics (PhD students and postdocs). Applications for projects related to the institutes' research priorities will take precedence.

Rights and duties

The Max Weber Foundation's Feldman travel grants are aimed to facilitate short-term research activities, including literature and archival research, abroad. The research project, which can be chosen freely, may be changed with prior permission from the relevant host institute and the Foundation's central office. The same applies to the choice of the host institute and to the time schedule.

Legal claims to grants do not exist. Grants can only be awarded within the given budget.

Declaration of acceptance

An informal declaration of acceptance must include confirmation of receipt and acknowledgement of these guidelines. The grant notification takes effect upon receipt of the signed declaration of acceptance.

Determination of travel grants

Grants are paid as allowances for studies abroad[1]. Overseas allowances generally supplement an existing basic funding. Daily rates vary depending on the host country:

Place visited	**Daily rate**
Lebanon, Beirut	€ 62
Turkey, Istanbul	€ 59
Israel, Jerusalem	€ 66
Egypt, Cairo	€ 62
Great Britain, London	€ 40
India, New Delhi	€ 62
France, Paris	€ 40
Finland, Helsinki	€ 48
Czech Republic, Prague	€ 43
Italy, Rome	€ 34
Singapore	€ 64
Japan, Tokyo	€ 66
Lithuania, Wilna	€ 46
Poland, Warsaw	€ 43
Ukraine, L'viv	€ 62
USA, Washington	€ 54
Germany	€ 32
Georgia, Tbilisi	€ 62

In addition, expenses for travel to the host country and back (least expensive option) will be refunded as incurred and documented in accordance with the German Travel Expenses Act. Travel expenses incurred for further travel in the host country *after* arrival there are not eligible for reimbursement. Travel grants do not include funding for periods between research placements. When planning the travel, the

[1] Based on the foreign allowances of the German Research Foundation, www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/einzelfoerderung/forschungsstipendien/stipendienrechner/index.jsp (called forward on May 30, 2023). Daily rates for Germany are aligned with base rates of the Fulbright Commission, www.fulbright.de/programs-for-u-s-americans/students/study-and-research-at-a-german-university (called forward on May 30, 2023).

continuously updated information from the authorities and the relevant travel information from the Federal Foreign Office must be observed. The travels are at the recipients of Feldman travel grants own responsibility. Depending on the situation, the start of the travel can be postponed.

Payment of travel grants

Monies granted by the Foundation will be transferred upon receipt of a written request. Claims should be made without undue delay. Funds may only be used directly for the approved purpose.

Funding period

Depending on the duration proposed in the application, travel grants are awarded for a maximum of three months. The research placements must be completed within a 24-month time limit. Funding shall end after the term set forth in the letter of conferment. The letter of conferment shall also state the date from which the travel grant may be received (as a rule the 1st January of the year following the application). If, contrary to expectation, the applicant is not in a position to claim the funding on the agreed date, a new date for the start of funding may be arranged with the host institute provided that the Foundation's central office is notified. Otherwise the grant shall lapse six months after the date of the grant notification.

Non-compliance with the guidelines / premature termination of the travel grant

If a recipient fails to comply with the conditions or requirements detailed in these guidelines, or has given false information or concealed facts that preclude funding, the MWS reserves the right to terminate the research grant prematurely and demand repayment of all monies hitherto transferred.

Reports on placements abroad

Within three months from the end of the funding period the MWS must be provided with a final report stating the exact dates (see form at www.maxweberstiftung.de/feldman). The blog portal de.hypotheses.org provides grant recipients with an opportunity to start a blog covering their research projects (de.hypotheses.org/blog-eroffnen).

II. Additional provisions

Recipients of Feldman travel grants from the MWS are obliged to adhere to the principles of good academic practice issued by the Foundation based on the principles defined by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (www.maxweberstiftung.de/en/newsfeed/downloads.html).

Acceptance of the travel grant shall be deemed to constitute a binding acknowledgement of the fact that the grant notifications and the guidelines for travel grants are an integral part of the travel grant conferment. The MWS reserves the right to change guidelines and instructions in the interest of the Foundation where such changes are not unreasonable for the recipient. Recipients shall be given timely notice if any such changes are made. Changes shall be deemed to have been accepted unless the recipient objects in writing within four weeks.

Place of jurisdiction

The place of jurisdiction is Bonn, Germany. Unless there is a conflict of law, German law shall apply.

Insurance

MWS expressly points out that recipients are responsible for taking out adequate health insurance for trips and periods of research for which it makes funding available; travellers are required to do so by law. MWS will not provide any financial assistance in the event of illness or accident.

Publications

The MWS requests an offprint or specimen copy of any publications connected to your project. The Foundation requests that any publications mention the funding received from the MWS.