



AN INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL YOUNG SCIENTISTS

The German Federal Government recognizes global warming, energy shortages, resource scarcity, and massive environmental contamination as some of the biggest global challenges of today. The government's decision that Germany's energy supply should be generated primarily from renewable energy sources by 2050 is an outstanding example of an answer to these challenges and is also a symbol for the country's pioneering work in the quest for sustainable development. With the Science Year 2012 „Project EARTH: Our future,“ the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is taking a holistic approach of economic and environmental sustainability without sacrificing quality of life. We are taking responsibility by promoting sustainable development and green growth. Achieving sustainability, however, is a global undertaking. In our belief in the excellence and creativity of young scientists, the BMBF has created the Green Talents Competition. Exceptional young researchers from all over the world are given the opportunity to participate in this competition. The winners are invited to come to Germany, discuss green policies, visit renowned research institutions and companies, establish new contacts, and build networks with strong partners.



“The success of the annual Green Talents Competition shows: climate change and a scarcity of resources and energy are global challenges that call for an international approach.”

Federal Research Minister Professor Annette Schavan, patron of the Green Talents Forum (Photo Minister Professor Annette Schavan)

WANTED: OUTSTANDING GREEN TALENTS

With its prestigious Green Talents Competition, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is seeking 25 outstanding young scientists (up to 35 years old) from around the world who work on answers to the urgent questions of our time:

Society – How do we want to live?

- >> Sustainability strategies in policymaking, business, and society
- >> Megacities: waste and water management, CO₂-neutral cities and houses, disaster prevention
- >> Mobility: bio fuels, electric mobility, new mobility concepts

Green Economy – How can we make value creation sustainable?

- >> Resource and energy efficiency, material efficiency, recycling, and substitution with innovative materials
- >> Storage technologies and smart grids

Environment – What environment do we want to live in?

- >> Climate protection, adaptation to climate change
- >> System earth: biodiversity, land-use, and water management

Selection will be based on the applicants' achievements in the field of sustainable development and their specific interest in cooperating with German partners.

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM

The selected Green Talents will travel throughout Germany in autumn 2012 and visit leading universities, research institutions, and companies. They will gather specific information about research activities and learn about opportunities for cooperation with German partners.

Individual meetings with experts from some of the most renowned institutions will also form an important part of the young scientists' visit. Moreover, the Green Talents will meet high representatives of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The programme will also include cultural events.

A prolonged research stay in Germany

During the year following their participation in the Green Talents Forum, the winners of the competition will be invited to return to Germany for an additional research stay of up to three months at a German university, research institution, or company in order to carry out or further develop a research project. Funding will be provided by the BMBF.

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

As part of the international forum, the selected awardees will visit the following German institutions:

- >> BASF SE, Ludwigshafen
- >> E.ON Energy Research Center (E.ON ERC) at RWTH Aachen University
- >> Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety and Energy Technology (UMSICHT), Oberhausen
- >> Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)
- >> Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena
- >> Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)

What's more, a workshop on research and funding opportunities will provide the Green Talents with further information for their future research stays in Germany. The journey culminates in a festive award ceremony at a sustainability conference in Berlin.

PARTICIPATION AND APPLICATION

Requirements

- >> A postgraduate status or degree (Master student or above) with above-average grades in the field of sustainable development
- >> Proven excellent command of the English language
- >> Age: up to 35 years
- >> Non-German citizenship and residence outside of Germany.

Application

Applications can only be submitted via an online registration on the Green Talents website: www.greentalents.de. Here you will be guided through the application process. Please note that the application will take some time. It is possible, however, to pause and save the information you have filled in and continue at another time.

You will be asked to fill out forms with personal information and questions about your academic and professional career, including specifications about university degrees, research work, list of publications, etc.

You will also be asked to upload the following documents in English:

- >> Current letter of recommendation or expert opinion focussing on your career as a scientist and activities up until now (letter should not be older than 6 months);
- >> Exposé explaining your motivation for participating in the forum (two pages max.): Why do you want to learn more about Germany as a key location for sustainable research? What do you expect to gain from this experience for your future scientific career? Please explain your specific interest in the field of sustainable development and green growth, also demonstrating your interdisciplinary interest.

THE JURY

The winning Green Talents will be selected by a high-calibre jury, whose members include:



Univ.-Prof. Dr. ir. Dr. h.c. Rik W. De Doncker

Head of the E.ON Energy Research Center

Prof. Dr. Beate Jessel

President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

Michael Sailer

Chief Executive Officer Oeko-Institut e.V.

Margret Suckale

Member of the Board of Executive Directors, BASF SE

APPLY NOW

Application information

Detailed information and a link to the application online tool are available on the "Green Talents" website: www.greentalents.de

Deadline

Please submit your online application forms by **10 June 2012**. Incomplete or late submissions cannot be processed and will be disqualified.

Contact

International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

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Credits

Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Division 721

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