

## FULBRIGHT-COTTRELL AWARD 2018

With its Fulbright-Cottrell Award, the German-American Fulbright Commission in Berlin offers a unique opportunity for researchers in the fields of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy.

Successful applicants will receive funding of 63,000 € (lump-sum) for a three-year project that combines innovative research and teaching approaches within their respective fields. The award also includes an additional 5,000 € for participation in the annual Cottrell Scholar Conferences, the next of which will take place in July 2018 in Tucson, Arizona.

Through the funding and the conference participation combined, the Fulbright-Cottrell Award rewards outstanding teacher-scholars who are recognized by their scientific communities on both sides of the Atlantic for the quality and innovation of their research programs and their academic leadership skills.

### Background

Within the German university system, research has traditionally been valued higher than teaching – as exemplified by the so-called “Exzellenz-Initiative”, which primarily focuses on excellence in research. Despite single initiatives to foster excellence in teaching, these programs, and, consequently, teaching per se, usually lack both prestige and funding. This presents especially young scientists with the challenge of having to assume most teaching responsibilities while at the same time risking to lose track with the research-centered scientific community.

One very successful way to face this challenge is the Cottrell Scholar Award (cf. <http://rescorp.org/cottrell-scholars/cottrell-scholar-award>), which, since its inception in the U.S. in 1994, recognizes outstanding young scientists at U.S. universities in the fields of Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy, and Biochemistry. This prestigious award is conferred annually by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement (RCSA) in Tucson, Arizona – thus far with a focus on the American science community.

With the Fulbright-Cottrell Award, the German-American Fulbright Commission widens the scope of this successful approach for both U.S. and German scholars by adding a transatlantic, intercultural perspective. Every year, the German-American Fulbright Commission sponsors hundreds of scholars in academic programs in both Germany and the United States. Fulbright-Cottrell scholars will thus gain access to two prestigious and established networks, which will help them develop their current and future projects and pave their careers as transatlantic teacher-scholars.

### Target Group

Junior group leaders and habilitated researchers (including junior professors, *Juniordozenten*, and *Privatdozenten*) who are working at a German university with teaching responsibilities in Bachelor's programs of Chemistry, Physics or Astronomy.

### Project Criteria

Submitted projects should include a research proposal and a corresponding teaching program, with the aim of implementing both components in parallel over the course of three years at a German university. The proposed research should describe a fundamental problem and enhance the current knowledge and understanding in the applicant's particular field. The teaching program should aim at improving teaching within the applicant's respective department/program, and at improving the students' academic success.

Submitted projects will be judged by their quality and innovation, feasibility, and long-term perspectives. In addition to scientific excellence, proposals should also reflect the applicant's knowledge of didactic concepts, and make use of innovative teaching and learning methodologies. Applicants are encouraged to implement their projects as enrichment for students in their early stages.

Successful candidates will be expected to attend the Cottrell Scholar Conference in July 2018 and at least one additional conference in 2019 or 2020.

### **Selection Process**

Projects will be reviewed by scientific selection committees consisting of experts from the field, former Cottrell Scholars, the Fulbright Commission, and the Research Corporation for Science Advancement. For 2018, the German-American Fulbright Commission will be able to award 2 Fulbright-Cottrell Awards. We expect strong competition for the program.

### **Financial Information**

The awards will be funded by the German-American Fulbright Commission, with funds provided by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

The award will include:

- Funding for a three-year research and teaching project in the amount of 63,000 €, which will be provided in a single installment. The official start date of the award is July 1, 2018.
- Costs for transatlantic flight transportation from Germany to at least two Cottrell Scholar Conferences in Tucson, Arizona of up to 5,000 €. Costs will be covered as incurred, starting in April 2018.

The Research Corporation for Science Advancement will fund the scholar's conference fee, hotel accommodation, and meals during the 3-day conference.

### **Application**

Please fill in both parts of the application form and follow the application procedures outlined in part 1. The deadline for the complete submission of all requested documents is November 30, 2017. Applicants will need to submit information on their academic and educational experience, abstracts of their research and teaching proposals, an endorsement by their university, and a letter of support by the head of their department.

Successful candidates will be selected in January 2018. All applicants will be notified in January 2018.

### **Contact for Questions**

Special Programs

German-American Fulbright Commission

Lützowufer 26

10787 Berlin

[specialprograms@fulbright.de](mailto:specialprograms@fulbright.de)