Fulbright-Cottrell Award 2019

Description

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 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 Conference, the next of which will take place in July 2019 in Tucson, Arizona.

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

Background

Within the German university system, research has traditionally been valued more than teaching – as exemplified by the so-called “Exzellenz-Initiative,” which primarily focuses on excellence in research. Despite particular initiatives to foster excellence in teaching, such programs and, consequently, teaching per se, usually lack both prestige and funding. Particularly young scientists are thus challenged by the obligation to assume a large proportion of the teaching responsibilities in their department at the expense of opportunities for advancement in the more research-centered scientific community.

Since its inception in the U.S. in 1994, the Cottrell Scholar Award has faced such a challenge by recognizing outstanding young scientists at U.S. universities in the fields of chemistry, physics and astronomy. 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 scientific 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, helping them to develop their current and future projects and pave 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 the core programs (Bachelor/Master) of chemistry, physics or astronomy.

Project Criteria

Submitted projects should include a research proposal and a corresponding teaching program, with the aim of simultaneously implementing both components 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 instruction within the applicant’s respective department/program, and at improving 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 pedagogic
concepts, and make use of innovative teaching and learning methodologies. Applicants are encouraged to implement their projects as enrichment for students in earlier stages of their academic development.

Candidates should demonstrate independence in research (publications, etc.) and teaching, and should also have strong international experience in scientific research (collaboration in an international environment and work as a member of diverse teams).

In conjunction with the Fulbright-Cottrell Award, the Fulbright-Cottrell Junior Faculty Professional Development Workshop took place in Berlin from 18 to 20 June 2018. The workshop offers training for junior group leaders in Germany on how to best implement evidence-based pedagogies, integrate research and teaching, use new strategies for communicating science to the public, and develop skills in time management, leadership, mentoring students, and networking. A similar format is planned for June 2019, and Fulbright-Cottrell Award winners are invited to attend.

Selection Process
Projects will be reviewed by scientist-experts in the Fulbright-Cottrell Award fields and a selection committee consisting of Cottrell Scholar alumni. For 2019, the German-American Fulbright Commission may award up to two Fulbright-Cottrell Awards. We expect strong competition for the award.

Financial Information
The awards will be administered 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 two installments. The official start date of the award is July 1, 2019.
- Costs for transatlantic flights 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 May 2019.

The Research Corporation for Science Advancement will fund the scholar’s conference fee, hotel accommodation, and meals during the Cottrell Scholar Conference.

Applications
Please complete the application form and follow the application procedures outlined there. The deadline for the complete submission of all requested documents is January 15, 2019. Applicants will need to submit information on their education and experience, detailed research and teaching proposals, an endorsement by their university, a letter of support by the head of their department (endorsing your teaching proposal and indicating why you are the appropriate faculty member to undertake this project), and signature page, among other elements.

A complete application should include two parts:
1. Your electronically completed application form
2. Your completed, scanned supporting documents (see instructions for application submission)

Successful candidates will be selected in March 2019. All applicants will be notified soon thereafter.

Contact for Questions
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