Announcement of the 2018 Helmholtz – OCPC Postdoc-Program

In order to support the Chinese outstanding postdoctoral talents and to support the collaboration between Helmholtz Research Centres and their Chinese partners and their efforts to build up long term partnership or joint research platforms, the Helmholtz Association and the office of China Postdoc Council have agreed and signed in June 2017 a postdoctoral exchange program. Both sides committed for joint selection and co-funding 50 outstanding young scholars annually to work as a postdoc in a Helmholtz research centre for a two year period.

There are currently 8 German Helmholtz research centers signed their participation on this project, including DESY, FZI, GFZ, GSI, HZB, HZI, HMGU, KIT. OCPC has tried this project with DESY since 2015, FZI since 2014 and GSI in 2016. In 2017, this Helmholtz-OCPC Sino-German Postdoctoral Program was run in two rounds and selected 40 excellent candidates. 2018 is the second year of this project. There are 6 Helmholtz research centers offering 56 positions opening to application. The specific description concerning each position could be downloaded from the Helmholtz website:

(http://www.helmholtz.cn/cooperation/helmholtz_ocpc_joint_postdoc_programme)

In order to make sure, both the applicants and their hosts know better of this program as well the details about the application procedure, the 2018 call for the Helmholtz-OCPC postdoc program will also be linked to the Helmholtz.de website.

The official document, targeted at the provincial administration responsible for the Chinese postdoctoral program, “the Call for 2018 Sino-German Postdoc Exchange Program” (OCPC Document No. 28 [2018]), has been released on the official China Postdoc Website:

(http://www.chinapostdoctor.org.cn).

More relevant information:

OCPC and Helmholtz have signed the agreement with commitment for cofounding the program. The agreement would be valid for 5 years (2017-2021 years). Up to 50 Chinese young scholars could be selected and funded every year.

The positions opening for application are collected from each Helmholtz Research Center, which has signed their participation on this project. All the qualified applicants should be Chinese under the age of 35 years old and more than 5 years after they have had their PhD degree. This program is open to talented young Chinese, including those having done or are doing their postdoc research, as well as those who are about to acquire their PhD degree in China or from abroad. In principle, those applicants should meet the application requirements of the domestic postdoc
stations. By the time of submitting their application materials, the applicants could be still abroad having or not having an employment.

Those selected candidates would be seen as a newly recruited postdoctoral fellow in China without a domestic mentor; by the mean time they would be seen as postdoctoral fellow at a Helmholtz Research Center. Those selected candidates should register themselves in the specific domestic postdoctoral station before their departure for Germany. During their two years of research Helmholtz Research Centre, they are still under the virtual administration of the Postdoctor Station, where they claim also their Chinese funding monthly or bimonthly. Within two months after the two years project terminated, the postdocs should return back to China and finishing the necessary procedure to leave the domestic postdoctoral station.

**Application procedures and announcement of the results**

The applicants shall follow the official announcement from the Office of China Postdoc Council, prepare the required application materials and filling the application forms. They shall submit the application to a postdoc station in time, which has agreed to recommend them to OCPC for competing the program. OCPC will collect all the official approved application materials from all the postdoc stations and then ask the German partners to carry out their evaluation and interview. Finally, the Helmholtz Research Centres would carry out their selection and report their decision to the Helmholtz Headquarters, which will further inform the selection results containing the qualified candidates to OCPC. OCPC will then go through an internal procedure for approval and then announce the results to the publicity and to German partner.

The final results about the joint-selection will be published in the official online portal of OCPC (http://www.chinapostdoctor.org.cn). The selected candidates shall take their contact with OCPC in time, so as to obtain the official certificate assuring the fellowship both in Chinese and English. The Helmholtz-OCPC Postdoc Fellows shall then contact their Helmholtz supervisor by presenting the certificate and ask the relevant Helmholtz Research Centre to prepare the formal invitation and a working contract, which would be required for visa application. All the fellows should come up to their domestic postdoc station for registration of their entrance before they depart for Germany.

**Amount of the joint-funding**

OCPC will award each chosen postdoc fellow a one-slot subsidy of 300,000.00 RMB, which would be forwarded to the individual postdoc stations. The postdoc stations would make a monthly or bimonthly transaction to the fellowship-holder. This Chinese part of money are not duty-free in most cases. The Helmholtz Research Centre will top up monthly 1500 euro tax-free cash as the assistance to the selected fellows. The above incomes are for the fellows to use in their daily life, health insurance as well as their participation on academic exchanges.
**Other Notices:**

The submission of application shall always go through a certified domestic postdoc station. OCPC and German Partners are not to take individual application directly. This is the only way to apply for this program.

The two year cofunding period for each candidate will be calculated from the date of the arrival of the postdoctoral fellow in Germany. OCPC agrees principally a one-year extension, but the financial support shall be borne on the German commitment, OCPC is no longer offering an additional funding.

The postdoctoral fellows enrolled in this project will endure an internal evaluation within 6 months of their stay in the Helmholtz Centre. In case the evaluation was very poor or there is big dispute or dissatisfaction between the postdoctoral fellow and his/her supervisor, the postdoc fellow or the supervisor shall ask the permission of the Helmholtz Research Center in written petition to terminate the proposed project.

After the postdoctoral fellow having successfully completed the proposed research in two years, they should disclose their case with the domestic managing postdoc station in time. Depending on how their original agreement with their previous working unit in China was managed, they may return back to the original domestic work units or switch to another available position either in China or abroad. In case there is not any further bounded obligation or agreement, OCPC and Helmholtz respect the decision of the individual fellows and wish them pursuing their scientific careers with full freedom and flexibility.

**For more information, please contact the liaison offices of Helmholtz and OCPC.**

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