



## 2017 Call for Nominations

### AGNES Grant for Junior Researchers - supported by AvH and BMBF

#### I. Programme

We are pleased to announce that the Call for Nominations for the “AGNES Grant for Junior Researchers” in 2017 is now open. AGNES is offering a total of 10 grants to recent doctoral graduates (sub-Saharan African nationals); these grants are funded through a joint initiative of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) and The German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF). The AGNES Grant for Junior Researchers aims to strengthen the scientific capacity in Africa through active co-operation of AGNES members. It further supports the alumni of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in their efforts towards coaching and mentoring high potential junior researchers, helping them to access international networks of scientific excellence (e.g. AvH and BMBF).

#### II. Eligibility and Nomination

Consideration of recipients for the AGNES Grant for Junior researchers is only by nomination of candidates, and not through direct application.

AGNES Founder Members and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) may nominate up to 3 excellent candidates who graduated with the PhD from 2015 onwards. Excellent candidates who will graduate before the end of 2017 may also be nominated. The nominator should consider only those candidates who have an outstanding academic record with, at least, one publication in an international journal. The nominee must be interested to carry out a post-doctoral scientific research project in Germany under the auspices of the fellowship programmes of the AvH.

**NB:** It is the wish of the Humboldt Foundation and of AGNES to attract excellent candidates from all sub-Saharan countries. Nominators are therefore requested if possible to contact colleagues from those countries which are least represented to request their support in detecting brilliant candidates. In this case they may nominate more candidates than authorized. Here is a (not exhaustive) list of least represented countries in Africa:

### West Africa:

Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Sénégal, Sierra Leone

### Central Africa:

Angola, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Congo, Kinshasa (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Zambia

### East Africa:

Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda

### Southern Africa:

Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe

AGNES encourage the nomination of candidates from all fields of research, including Humanities and Social Sciences.

## **III. Amount and Use of the Grant**

The once-off grant amounts to the ZAR equivalent of EUR 1000.00 as fixed at the time of conversion. The recipient of the Grant must submit a signed letter of acceptance to the Governing Board of AGNES, co-signed by the AGNES nominator (mentor) within seven days of receipt of the offer. The Grant money will then be transferred into the bank account of the successful Junior Researcher.

The Grant is awarded in recognition of the scientific achievements of the Grantee to date and his/her potential to successfully compete for an AvH post-doc fellowship. AGNES does not impose restrictions on the use of the Grant but it is envisaged that the Grant may serve as support during the preparation of the application for postdoctoral funding from the AvH.

## **IV. Nomination**

A nomination package is composed of the following:

- A nomination form should be completed with the name of the nominator, the name of the nominee, the reason for the nomination, the PhD graduation date of the nominee, the ranking of the nominees, the field of research to be followed in Germany, and the name and affiliation of a potential research partner in Germany (if already established).
- A CV of the nominee with a full list of publications plus a digital copy of each publication (**at least the first page showing Authorship, Title and Date of the publication, Abstract and**

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The AGNES Desk, Room 3.04,  
Research Office of the University of Cape Town (Allan Cormack House),  
2 Rhodes Avenue, Mowbray, 7700, South Africa  
Tel.: +27 21 650 2053  
E-Mail: [admin.agnes@uct.ac.za](mailto:admin.agnes@uct.ac.za) and [ocadebooye@gmail.com](mailto:ocadebooye@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://www.agnes-h.org>

### **Journal information).**

- For the Humanities, an extended abstract of the doctoral thesis (5 pages) has to be submitted.
- Academic transcripts and graduation certificates of degrees from the nominee's Tertiary Institute(s).

Nominators are urged to check the completeness of the nomination package for each of their nominees before submission, as incomplete nominations (i.e. missing documents) will not be deemed eligible for selection.

*Please send the Nomination files via email to the AGNES Desk in Cape Town: [admin.agnes@uct.ac.za](mailto:admin.agnes@uct.ac.za) and [ocadebooye@gmail.com](mailto:ocadebooye@gmail.com). Nominations close at 23h00 South African time on 29 September 2017.*

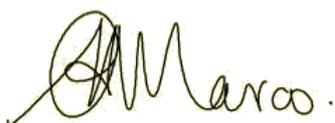
### **V. Selection**

A selection committee comprised of the AGNES Governing Board and additional evaluators based on their academic discipline/research expertise will evaluate the nominations. The AvH Foundation and BMBF are invited to send a representative to participate in the selection procedure.

The core ranking criteria are the publication record and the prospects for successful international scientific co-operation (contacts with German academic institutions are required for AvH programmes).

The selection committee will meet in Sudan in January 2018 where 10 candidates will be selected to each receive the once-off meritorious grant of EUR1000. Successful candidates will be informed of the selection committee's decision following the meeting.

Nomination and selection of candidates for The AGNES Grant for Junior Researchers is no guarantee of acceptance into the post-doc funding programmes of the AvH, and does not imply preferential treatment once an application is submitted.



**Dr Heather G. Marco**  
President/Chair AGNES Governing Board