

Invitation Letter – German Host
Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience (PRIME)

Dear German Host Scientists,

One of the prospective applicants in our postdoctoral funding programme PRIME asked you to act as her/his host researcher and supervisor during the PRIME research phase in Germany. Thank you very much for considering this request. Your invitation letter is an essential part of the application.

Please read the following information before drafting your invitation letter:

PRIME is a highly competitive funding scheme for postdoctoral researchers. We are delighted that so many excellent early-career researchers submit their application. However, with only 25 to 30 new fellowships to be awarded each year, the high number of applications leads to rigorous selection procedures. The average funding ratio in the previous selection cycles has rarely exceeded 15 %.

To be a serious contender for a fellowship, applicants clearly need to have an above-average academic track record. Their research project must be highly innovative and of high quality. The host institutions in Germany and abroad must provide the perfect research environment to implement the proposed project. Based on the idea of researcher training, a PRIME fellowship should enable the candidate to acquire additional scientific/methodological skills. The fellowship is intended to pave the path to an independent research career and position the candidate as a serious competitor for more advanced positions in research.

If you are strongly convinced that the candidate fulfills these requirements and if you fully endorse the submitted research project, please support the applicant with an invitation letter that details the support to be provided and outlines the longer-term career perspectives in the German research landscape.

Should you, however, identify a considerable deficiency in the candidate's profile regarding the programme specifications, we strongly recommend that you discuss the matter with the candidate. In this case, it might be more suitable for her or him to look for alternative funding opportunities.

The information provided here is in no way intended to discourage you from supporting an excellent application with your invitation letter. Our intention is to disclose the reality of this highly competitive funding programme to avoid misconceptions.

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|---------------------------|---|
| Applicant | Dr. Magdalena Matyjek |
| Host/Supervisor | Prof. Dr. Isabel Dziobek |
| University address | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Unter den Linden 6, 10117 Berlin, Germany |

Invitation Letter

Please insert your invitation letter here. Since the evaluation and selection process will be conducted by international reviewers, we kindly ask you to provide your letter in English.



Klinische Psychologie Soziale Interaktion | Unter den Linden 6 | 10099 Berlin
Spezialambulanz für Soziale Interaktion | Klosterstr. 64 | 10179 Berlin

DAAD PRIME Selection Committee

Lebenswissenschaftliche Fakultät
Institut für Psychologie
Klinische Psychologie Soziale Interaktion

**Hochschulambulanz für Psychotherapie
und Psychodiagnostik**

Spezialambulanz für Soziale Interaktion

Leitung: Prof. Dr. Isabel Dziobek

Sitz und Anschrift:

Klosterstraße 64
2. Aufgang – 5. OG
10179 Berlin

I: isabel.dziobek@hu-berlin.de

Berlin, 24.08.2022

Invitation letter

I am pleased to write an invitation letter for Magdalena to accompany her application for the DAAD PRIME Postdoctoral Fellowship. If awarded, I would be the primary host and supervisor of this project. I was the supervisor of Magdalena's PhD, for which she joined my Clinical Psychology of Social Interaction group and the highly competitive Berlin School of Mind and Brain graduate program at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU) in 2016. She completed her doctorate in February this year having defended the impressive thesis including four first-author articles on reward processing in autism and autistic traits, spanning both empirical and theoretical works. During the time she spent in my group, I experienced her exceptional motivation, analytical thinking, and research and soft skills, and I can highly recommend her for the fellowship as an exemplary and one of the most promising junior researchers I have worked with. Although I was Magdalena's PhD supervisor, she has proven her ability to work independently, securing her own funding (MSCA – EUTOPIA-SIF Postdoc Fellowship) to realise a postdoctoral training outside of Germany (University Pompeu Fabra, Spain), and importantly, developing the research proposal for this PRIME call independently. Knowing her interest in pursuing academic career in Germany, I am happy to support her in her next step by hosting this project.

I find Magdalena's research proposal in this application to be of high academic and societal values. The real-world applications of the project's results are clear and the proposed tools she describes in work packages 1 and 2 have the potential to be applied in multiple research fields, speaking to the impact of this planned work. The research proposed here is closely related to the work done in my group: as an experimental psychologist, neuroscientist and psychotherapist, I am interested in both understanding the bio-psycho-environmental mechanisms of order and disorder in social information processing and in the development of treatment options to address respective impairments. Moreover, similarly to me, Magdalena is aware of the value of participatory research and aims to learn from existing groups

and organisations. It is my belief that the best environments for this in Europe are Germany and the UK, which is reflected in the choice of hosts for this proposal. Thanks to this set-up, this project will also give the opportunity for networking and exchange between the international hosting institutions and HU. Importantly, this project is generative of further hypotheses and research prospects for Magdalena. Given her unswerving dedication to science, this Fellowship would considerably aid her long-term career goals, especially in Germany.

During her stay at the HU, Magdalena will be provided with office space, a computer, and access to the laboratory facilities at the Institute of Psychology, which are adjusted to the needs of autistic participants. Our labs are equipped in everything that the proposed project requires, e.g., cameras, computers, software for data processing. Additionally, throughout the entire fellowship, Magdalena will be given a HU email account to access the internal resources of the university, including the library facilities. In a longer perspective, this fellowship will certainly help Magdalena in developing perspectives for positions at HU, as HU has a special strength in social cognition research with a designated profile area at e.g., the highly visible Berlin School of Mind and Brain and at the Institute of Psychology with many groups that dedicate their work to this area. Not only will this fellowship allow Magdalena to network among colleagues that have the same interests and might be future employers but also to potentially place her own group as an independent researcher in this social cognition HU environment. The university and myself will support Magdalena with respective applications for research funding and teaching positions at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Importantly, as the head of the Outpatient Clinic for Social Interaction I can provide clinical guidance for the project and recruitment channels for autistic participants. Furthermore, as the founder of the Autismus-Forschungs-Kooperation (Autism Research Cooperation) and a member of the the Berlin Circle for Participatory Research in Clinical Psychology and Psychiatry (B-Part), I can support Magdalena in gaining hands-on experience in participatory autism research. In fact, given my research and clinical affiliations and expertise as well as the Berlin academic environment supporting clinical and participatory work, I believe my group at HU is a unique host for Magdalena's project and her career development goals.

I am happy to answer any additional questions about Magdalena.
Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Isabel Dziobek

Head of Clinical Psychology of Social Interaction
and Outpatient Clinic for Social Interaction
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
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