



HITS Journalist in Residence

A unique opportunity for experienced journalists interested in science, mathematics or computer science.

Call for the 2016 HITS Journalist in Residence open.

Heidelberg Institute for
Theoretical Studies



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**Volker Stollorz (free science journalist, Germany),
HITS Journalist in Residence 2012:**

“The chance to spend a considerable amount of time with those smart „HITSters“ will stay in my mind for long and it will influence my work as a science journalist. This program creates opportunities to intensify the important dialogue between science, science journalism, and the public.“



**Pia Grzesiak (free science journalist, Germany), HITS Journalist
in Residence 2013:**

“I was surprised how many interesting and relevant topics are hidden behind those mountains of theoretical and invisible data. Here at HITS I have the opportunity to have a closer look and to deal with the issues there is no time for in normal daily business. This is a great experience.”



**Michele Catanzaro (free science journalist, Italy and Spain), HITS
Journalist in Residence 2014:**

“The Journalist in Residence program is an opportunity for a freelancer to pause, think, learn and work on a long-term, independent project. All these things are essential for good journalism, but unfortunately rare.“

HITS

The **Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies** (HITS gGmbH) was established by SAP co-founder Klaus Tschira and his foundation, the „Klaus Tschira Stiftung“, as a private, non-profit research institute. HITS conducts **basic research** involving the processing, structuring and analysis of large amounts of data in the **natural sciences, mathematics and computer science**. The research topics range from molecular biology to astrophysics. Shareholders of HITS are the “**HITS-Stiftung**“, **Heidelberg University and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)**. HITS cooperates with universities and research institutes, as well as with industrial partners. The Klaus Tschira Foundation provides the major financial support for HITS through the HITS foundation. The main external **funding sources** are the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the German Research Foundation and the European Union.

With the “Journalist in Residence” program, HITS offers experienced journalists a three- to six-month stay in a highly inter-disciplinary research environment.



Objective

The journalists have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with several areas of research depending on their interests, and to deepen their knowledge without the pressure of daily business. Another objective of the program is to encourage the dialogue between journalists and researchers. The daily contact with the researchers will help journalists to gain a better understanding of the way research works and of the researchers' way of thinking.

Target Group and Duration

The grant is targeted at freelance and staff journalists, focusing on scientific journalism, with several years of work experience. Print and online media journalists are as welcome as radio and TV journalists. The duration of the stay is three to six months.

Activities and Endowment

- Mutual exchange with the researchers at HITS and collaborating institutions
- a public talk and a seminar on science communication
- collecting information about potential topics for own publications

We do not expect the journalists to publish anything related to HITS in return. They are basically free to pursue their own agenda. "HITS Journalist in Residence" is endowed with **EUR 5,000 per month**. A workplace with the usual technical equipment is available at HITS. Contractual details will depend on both the nationality of the grantee and his/her employment status.

Application requirements

Applications should include a proof of journalistic work in the area of Science and Technology; a presentation of the key areas of your journalistic work and a rough plan of the projects you are intending to carry out during the stay at HITS; a CV, and up to five relevant work samples (PDF files or copies, audio or video files). For staff journalists, a letter of recommendation from the chief editor or a head of section is also required. Good knowledge of written and spoken English is expected. At least basic knowledge of German is recommended.

Please submit your application via e-mail only.

Contact and address for applications

Dr. Peter Saueressig, phone: +49 6221 533245, saueressig@h-its.org

The deadline for applications is September 15, 2015.

Members of the jury are science journalists, as well as academics from various scientific institutions.

The next stay of a “HITS Journalist in Residence” is to begin in 2016.

Applications for later dates are also welcome.