The recent launch of X-ray free electron lasers creates unprecedented research opportunities. Aiming at an early progress of this field, the Volkswagen Foundation awards the so called “PETER PAUL EWALD FELLOWSHIPS” for projects carried out at Stanford, USA, in affiliation with an arbitrary home institute in Germany.

Who can apply?
The Peter Paul Ewald Fellowships aim at highly qualified early phase post-doctoral researchers who want to pursue novel research ideas at LCLS or the future European XFEL and who strive for a longer research stay in Stanford or in the vicinity. Each year four to five fellowships can be awarded. Experiments as well as new concepts in theory and data analysis will be considered.

What will be funded?
The grants are made for three years. They consist of a research stay at Stanford lasting between one and two years and the research work in Germany during the remainder of the time. Funds are available for the fellow’s salary including an overseas bonus, and for non-personnel costs like a travel allowance regarding cooperation visits, conferences and measuring campaigns, consumables as needed, and indispensable, hence limited, equipment items.

How to apply?
The application has to be written in English. It must be submitted using the Foundation’s electronic application system. Please consult the respective information for applicants published on our website for further details.

Next Deadline: January 25, 2013

How works the peer-review?
All applications will undergo an international comparative peer review. In a first step the most promising candidates will be shortlisted. They will be given the opportunity to present their research ideas in front of the review panel. Subsequently, the Foundation’s Board of Trustees decides on the applications. This process takes about five months.

Who else will benefit?
Group leaders are invited to encourage prospective applicants. Acting as a host institute in Germany or in Stanford will strengthen your team and will stimulate transatlantic scientific partnership. Please provide an informative recommendation letter on your candidate. The German institute is responsible for administering the grant.

Contact
Dr. Ulrike Bischler
Tel.: +49 511 8381 350
E-Mail: bischler@volkswagenstiftung.de
www.volkswagenstiftung.de/ewald-fellowships

Dr. Matthias Fuch, Universität Hamburg

PROJECT: Exploring extreme states of matter by time-resolved X-ray spectroscopy

“Since the beginning of my PhD in 2007, I have worked with X-ray spectroscopy and optics in order to characterize warm dense matter. To be enabled to link these two fields, science with FELs and X-ray diagnostics, by using the worldwide first and only X-ray-FEL LCLS offers unprecedented opportunities for my research.”

Dr. Andreas Schwipp, Technische Universität Dresden

PROJECT: XFEL Research: ultrafast dynamics in solids and plasma characterization

“The Peter Paul Ewald-Fellowship gives me the huge opportunity to do my own independent research at THE cutting-edge X-ray facility, surrounded by worldwide leading scientists and a top-class university… and all of this in sunny California.”

Dr. Martin Beye, Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie

PROJECT: Project: real time observation of chemical reactions on surfaces

“In my fellowship, I very much appreciate the flexibility. My schedule to do research in the US is changing quite often according to granted measurement times and it is adjusted to the needs of the project. Furthermore, it is very valuable to be able to buy needed equipment on short notice in a simple way. This independence is what makes this scholarship very attractive.”

Dr. Ulf Zastrau, Universität Jena

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PROJECT: Project: Focusing X-ray free-electron laser beams for imaging and creating extreme conditions in matter

“The fellowship of the VolkswagenStiftung allows me to follow my scientific interests in X-ray science with a large degree of freedom and independence. In addition, the close connection to Stanford University provides an extremely active and scientifically fruitful environment. It is this unique atmosphere which I probably enjoy the most.”

Dr. Marko Bieg, Zentrum für Materialforschung und Werkstoffe

PROJECT: Project: Real time observation of chemical reactions on surfaces

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