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**WILHELM UND ELSE
HERAEUS-STIFTUNG**



THE ORIGINS

The Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation is a private institution that supports scientific research and education with an emphasis on physics.

It was established in 1963 by Dr. Wilhelm Heinrich Heraeus (1900–1985) and his wife Else Heraeus (1903–1987). Wilhelm Heraeus was a grandson of the founder of the W. C. Heraeus GmbH in Hanau near Frankfurt/Main (today: Heraeus Holding GmbH). After gaining his PhD in physics at Frankfurt University in 1923, Wilhelm Heraeus entered the family business and was appointed R&D manager. Later on he became the managing director and a member of the board of directors.

Since the 1970s, the foundation has been working closely with the German Physical Society (DPG). The Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation is Germany's most important private institution funding physics.

ORGANIZATION

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2019



We promote training and further education in science. We organize scientific communication.





COMMUNICATION

Organizing **WE-Heraeus Seminars** is the pre-eminent activity of the foundation. These workshop-type meetings are designed to allow for a scientific exchange within an informal framework. They cover cutting-edge research in both physics and neighboring fields. Most of the seminars take place at the Physikzentrum in Bad Honnef (near Bonn). Since 1975, more than 650 WE-Heraeus Seminars have been carried out with roughly 40,000 participants.

Another major activity of the foundation is initiating and funding **WE-Heraeus Physics Schools** on emerging fields in physics not yet covered in textbooks.

Group Retreats for primarily young research groups, in e.g. a mountain hut, allow for intensive scientific discussion, supplemented by social activities.

The foundation awards student **travel grants** to attend the DPG Spring Meetings or e.g. the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings.



EDUCATION

The foundation funds exemplary projects for physics teaching at schools (e.g. students' labs), universities and other non-school places of learning (students' research centers). In a joint program with the DPG the foundation supports model projects at high schools designed to increase interest in and fun with physics. In addition it finances competitions for schoolchildren like the "German Young Physicists' Tournament" (GYPT) or "exciting physics". The foundation's funding spectrum in this field also includes the support of science museums and exhibitions or the support of the physics advent calendar "Physik im Advent".

The foundation is deeply committed to improving the education of **physics teachers**. It organizes and funds training courses for both practicing teachers and newcomers, in part together with the DPG. Experienced physicists who want to contribute actively to the improvement of the education of teachers at their university can apply for a **WE-Heraeus Senior Professorship**. Moreover, with studies and book projects the foundation promotes the modernization of physics teaching.



The foundation's most important one-off funding efforts beyond the regular programs are financial contributions to the modernization of the Bad Honnef Physikzentrum. This comprises the Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Lecture Hall (2003), the renovation of the Lichtenberg Basement (2012), the popular recreation room, and the new guesthouse with 40 rooms on the site of the Physikzentrum (2015).

Please do not hesitate to contact the WE-Heraeus Foundation if you wish to organize or attend one of these meetings.

