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





COMMUNICATION

Organizing **WE-Heraeus Seminars** is the most important and oldest funding activity of the foundation. The topics cover cutting-edge research in both physics and neighboring fields. Trademark of these meetings is an informal atmosphere with plenty of opportunity for personal contacts. The conference venue is usually the physics centre („Physikzentrum“) in Bad Honnef. **Binational WE-Heraeus Seminars** have the particular aim of promoting cooperation between scientists in France, Great Britain or Poland on the one hand and Germany on the other.

Another major activity of the foundation is organizing and funding **WE-Heraeus Physics Schools** and **Bad Honnef Physics Schools** on current research topics.

Group Retreats lasting several days, e.g. at a mountain hut, allow for intensive scientific discussion.

The foundation awards **Travel Grants** to young scientists to attend DPG spring meetings as well as, for example, the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings.



EDUCATION

The foundation funds **Exemplary Projects for Physics Teaching** at schools (e.g. student laboratories, school observatories), universities or other non-school places of learning (student research centres). It supports events for pupils such as **Research Camps** or symposia and – together with the DPG – project work. It also finances **School Competitions** such as the “German Young Physicists’ Tournament” (GYPT) and a special prize at “jugend forscht”.

Education in the broader sense also includes contributions to science museums and exhibitions.

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**.



Beyond its regular programs, the foundation has contributed to the modernisation of the Bad Honnef Physics Centre, for example with the construction of the Wilhelm and Else Heraeus lecture hall (2003), the renovation of the Lichtenberg cellar (2012) and the construction of a guest house on the premises of the Physics Centre (2015).

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

