

FALLING WALLS FOUNDATION

TERMS & CONDITIONS

FALLING WALLS LAB PARTICIPANTS *(January 2026)*

Eligibility

- I. The participation in a Falling Walls Lab is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Therefore, participation is allowed only once. By applying, the candidate confirms that they have not previously participated in a Falling Walls Lab.
- II. At the time of application, the applicant must be of full age according to their domestic legislation or older, but not less than 18 years old.
- III. Applicants must meet at least one of the following formal requirements:
 - a. They must be currently enrolled at a university as a student;
 - b. They must have received a Bachelor's degree no more than 10 years ago (2016 or more recently);
 - c. They must have received a Master's degree no more than 7 years ago (2019 or more recently);
 - d. They must have received a PhD no more than 5 years ago (2021 or more recently).

An MD (medical degree excluding a doctoral dissertation) is deemed equivalent to a Master's degree. A Dr. med. (medical degree including a doctoral dissertation) is deemed equivalent to a PhD. The global diversity of academic degrees is acknowledged.

Parental leave: One year per child is added to the deadlines mentioned above.

Process

- IV. There is no legal right to participation.
- V. All sponsoring partners of Falling Walls Lab Berlin are granted access to all application materials (all data the applicant provides) of each applicant for potential recruitment purposes. Each international Lab organiser (e.g. German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), academic institution) receives all application materials of applicants who applied for their respective Lab. The juries of all international Falling Walls Labs and the Falling Walls Lab Global finale are also afforded access to all application materials.
- VI. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application following the respective application deadline. Participation is obligatory for all selected participants. In the event a candidate, for cause, is unable to participate in the Falling Walls Lab, they must inform the organisers of the respective Falling Walls Lab (hereinafter referred to as 'the Local Partner') promptly, with a minimum notice of at least two days before the event. The Local Partner is authorised to invite other applicants to the local Falling Walls Lab in their place.
- VII. The participant acknowledges and agrees that, during the presentation, video and photo footage will be captured for publication on the Falling Walls website, the websites of sponsoring partners, and made available for media. Moreover, Falling Walls receives a non-exclusive license to utilise the presented material, in whole or in part, with the condition that the presenter's name is appropriately attributed in the context of use. Such photos, video footage, and presented material may be used across various media channels, including but not limited to social media, internet/website, press releases, newsletters, brochures, and printed materials.
- VIII. The determination of the Falling Walls Lab winner(s) is entrusted to the jury. The jury shall make decisions at its own discretion, and all decisions are deemed final with no right of appeal. This principle applies uniformly to all international Labs and the Falling Walls Lab finale. The prize is non-negotiable and cannot be disbursed as a cash lump sum. The Falling Walls Foundation reserves the right to replace the prize with an alternate prize if circumstances beyond its control make it necessary to do so.

Presentation

- IX. At an in-person event, the presentation must be given in person. At a hybrid/online event, the presentation may be given online if agreed upon with the Local Partner. The presenter, in all cases, must be the original applicant; substitution by another individual is not permissible.
- X. Selected candidates commit to delivering a three-minute presentation. The language of the event is English, and presentations must be given in English.
- XI. Groups are not permitted to present at a Falling Walls Lab. Only individual applications and presentations are accepted, and presenters must delineate their individual contribution if the project involved a group effort.
- XII. The presenter must distinctly articulate the problem they are addressing and their proposed solution to that problem. For this, the presenter is allotted four slides: one introductory slide containing name, institution, and presentation title, two content slides, and one questions slide. The presenter must use the PowerPoint template provided by the Falling Walls Foundation.
- XIII. The presentation shall not include indecent or unlawful content. Comments violating the free and democratic basic order may not be made public through the presentation or distributed in any other forum of the Falling Walls Foundation (including all social media channels). The presenter is prohibited from delivering a talk with an inflammatory political or religious agenda.
- XIV. Each presenter's talk must be in compliance with the law, especially design, patent, trademark, and copyright law. Presenters are responsible for clearing any third-party materials before their presentation at a Falling Walls Lab. The Falling Walls Foundation cannot be held liable for a presenter's violation of the law and cannot assist or act as a consultant in this regard.
- XV. The Falling Walls Foundation and/or the Local Partner reserve the right to disqualify candidates from the event for cause. Such cause shall exist in particular in the event of breach of the candidates' obligations pursuant to sections IX - XIV.

Falling Walls Lab Finale

- XVI. The winner of the local Lab is obligated to travel to the Falling Walls Lab Global finale in November in Berlin. Participation in the finale is obligatory for the winner. Should a winner, for cause, not be able to participate in the Falling Walls Lab finale, they must inform the Falling Walls Foundation immediately.
- XVII. The winner must possess a valid passport and, if applicable, arrange their visa for Germany. The Falling Walls Foundation may provide an official invitation to assist with the visa application process. The Falling Walls Foundation cannot be of any further assistance and is not accountable for the outcome of the visa application. The winner is required to apply for any required visa promptly after winning the local Lab. Moreover, the winner is obliged to immediately inform the Falling Walls Foundation if the visa application has been rejected.
- XVIII. **Travel:** Travel expenses to/from the Falling Walls Lab finale in Berlin must be covered by the international Lab organiser. The Falling Walls Foundation does not cover travel expenses.
- XIX. **Accommodation:** The Falling Walls Foundation will cover the winner's stay in Berlin during the Falling Walls Lab Global Finale for one night at its partner hotel. Any additional nights of accommodation relevant to the winner's participation in the finale and the Falling Walls Science Summit must be covered by their international Lab organiser.
- XX. Should the winner be unable to participate in the Falling Walls Lab finale, the Local Partner reserves the right to select a suitable replacement (under normal circumstances, the next placed winner). However, the Local Partner may appoint the substitute only with the prior written consent of the Falling Walls Foundation.

Archiving & Communication Consent

- XXI. Names and email addresses of all Falling Walls Lab presenters worldwide will be archived to crosscheck whether newly received applications were submitted by previous presenters. This process also serves to document the permission granted for the use of materials, as stated above.

XXII. The Falling Walls Foundation may communicate with participants via email regarding events and activities of Falling Walls. Participants have the option to unsubscribe without incurring charges at any time, either through written response or opt-out.

Liability

XXIII. At the event, the organiser assumes liability pursuant to statutory conditions. Arrival and departure are expressly excluded from the event. No further liability shall exist. Liability is assumed by the participant in cases of damage to property or personal injury caused by the participant. Travel to Berlin is the responsibility of the participant, the event organiser is not liable for any resulting injury, damage, or loss of property.

By ticking the respective box on the Falling Walls website's application form, I confirm that I have thoroughly read, understood, and willingly accept the terms and conditions listed above.