

# CAREER GUIDE

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## GERMANY

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In 2018, the year in which the Berlin Wall has now been down for longer than it was up, former physicist Angela Merkel announced that her fourth term as Germany's chancellor would be her last.

Merkel's political career has run parallel with her country's evolution into a high-tech economy since reunification in 1990. A journey that has made Germany the third most popular destination for scientists from abroad, behind the United States and Great Britain.

In this supplement, we learn more about Germany's ambitious manufacturing and innovation goals (page S38), what makes its research landscape unique (page S34) and why researchers are drawn to the country (page S44).

As Germany's scientific community has become more diverse, the opportunity for scientists with an entrepreneurial spirit has grown. In the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2018, Germany was judged the world's most innovative economy as a result of the country's high volume of ideas — it generates nearly 300 patent applications per million people — and its ability to rapidly turn concepts into commercial products. We look at this trend on page S64. In addition, the country's research scene is flourishing; it now ranks above the United States in terms of the number of manuscripts that appear in the top 10% most highly cited papers in the world.

On a practical note, it's not hard to understand the attraction of moving your research

career to Germany. The world's fourth-largest economy offers its citizens a free higher education system, excellent quality of life and levels of inequality that are lower than in most other wealthy countries. Not to mention its reputation as a world leader in scientific research — coupled with a substantial collection of public promises to stay that way.

In 2016, for example, 32,000 foreign researchers were welcomed to Germany, mostly from Western Europe, Russia, China and India. This is a number that government officials think could increase given the current political developments in the United States, as well as the United Kingdom's plan to leave the European Union.

On page S46, we look at how Germany has proactively handled Europe's migration and refugee crisis, while on page S51, we examine the country's approach to the world's climate in terms of its research into green energy. And on page S56, we delve into Germany's contribution to the global science scene.

The country is also modernizing its institutions to help career scientists. On page S60, you can read about how scientists are challenging patriarchy in Germany's research scene.

With such widespread support for research, there is every reason to think that Mrs Merkel won't be the last scientist to lead Germany.

**Sarah O'Meara**  
*Guest Editor*

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