



Interview with the President: How Humboldt-Universität is dealing with the cost-cutting measures

Berlin's coalition in power is surprising the city's universities with ever new cost-cutting measures that threaten the substance of the capital's scientific and educational institutions. On 19 December 2024, a rally of Berlin's scientific institutions and universities took place in front of the Berlin House of Representatives (Photo). Under the slogan #SaveBrainCity, around 3,000 participants - including the university management and many Humboldt-Universität employees - protested against the drastic austerity plans. Despite the widespread protest, the cuts in the supplementary budget were approved by the House of Representatives that day. This means that 250 million euros are to be saved in the science budget in 2025. The cuts in university contracts alone (including Charité) amount to 142 million euros. In the meantime, the CDU and SPD have agreed on further savings for the years 2026 and 2027 in the coalition committee. It is to be expected that these will be adopted by the Senate as key figures for the preparation of the 2026/27 double budget. What does this situation mean for Humboldt-Universität in concrete terms? HU President Prof. Dr. Julia von Blumenthal gives answers in an interview.

[Read interview with Julia von Blumenthal](#)

[Read the Academic Senate's statement on joining an alliance against the Berlin state government's austerity policy](#)

Administration & Service

Better collaboration: Hold regular annual meetings

Since 2020, HU has had a solid basis for conducting annual appraisals on the basis of a service agreement. Once a year, line managers and employees take an hour to look back, exchange feedback and look ahead together. These confidential discussions provide a valuable opportunity to talk about expectations and professional goals and to improve collaboration.

[Read more about conducting annual appraisals](#)

International Women's Day: Women's Assembly on 13 March

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Central Women's and Gender Equality Officer cordially invites all women* at HU to the Women's Assembly. Every year, the event provides a stage for gender equality issues and an opportunity for women at this university to exchange ideas and network. The event will take place on 13 March from 13:00 to 15:00 in the Senate Hall, Unter den Linden 6, and is entitled: "Mastering challenging situations in everyday (university) life calmly!" In the interactive training session with health coach Nicole Langer, strategies for more balance and resilience will be taught. Afterwards, all attendees are invited to round off the afternoon with a small reception and get into conversation with each other.

[Further information on the women's plenary session](#)

Last Call: Register projects for the Long Night of the Sciences by 12 February

The Long Night of the Sciences celebrates its 25th anniversary on 28 June! Researchers from all HU institutions and locations who want to take part are invited to register their projects with the event team by 12 February. The Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften e.V. in Berlin is a joint project of the scientific institutions and attracted around 30,000 visitors in 2024, almost 7,000 of whom attended programmes at Humboldt-Universität.

Register projects for the Long Night of the Sciences: lange.nacht@hu-berlin.de

Don't forget: Digital retrieval of salary documents in Employee Self Service

Since January 2023, employees of Humboldt-Universität have been able to retrieve salary statements, social security notifications and income tax statements for previous calendar years (from 2023) via the Employee Self Service (ESS). The electronic wage tax statement for the 2024 calendar year and the 2024 annual social security return are now also available in the ESS. It is not possible to retrieve the documents in the ESS for periods prior to January 1, 2023.

[Read more about the ESS](#)

Against cutbacks: Demonstration on 22 February

Under the motto "Berlin is #unkürzbar - Redistribution Now!", a broad alliance of grassroots initiatives, trade unions and associations is calling for a demonstration on 22 February against the Berlin Senate's drastic cuts in many areas such as education and science, cultural and social institutions, transport and climate protection. The demonstration will take place at 14:00 in front of the Rotes Rathaus (Neptunbrunnen).

[Further information on the call can be found](#)

Research & Teaching

Future Workshop Teaching 2025: New paths to a lively feedback culture

Under the motto "Change of perspective - workshop for a lively feedback culture", around 60 students, lecturers and staff discussed practical approaches and challenges of an open feedback culture in teaching at the Future Teaching Workshop. In four workshops, the focus was on process-oriented and regular feedback measures and offerings that go beyond standardised semester surveys: Interim feedback and peer-to-peer approaches were highlighted as particularly important and supportive for a trusting exchange. The knowledge gathered in the future workshop will be incorporated into the strategic design of regular processes. Prof. Dr. Niels Pinkwart hosted the event. It was organised by the "Teaching Mission Statement" team.

[Find out more about the event and view documents](#)

Funding: 2.8 million euros for democracy projects on religion and justice

The Volkswagen Foundation is funding two interdisciplinary projects at Humboldt-Universität with 1.4 million euros each as part of its "Transformation Knowledge on Democracies in Transition" initiative. Dr. Saskia Schäfer from the Institute of Asian and African Studies and her team are researching how religious education can contribute to strengthening democracy in the face of growing anti-Semitic and racist tendencies. The aim is to develop and test democracy-building formats for schools and political education organisations. Prof. Dr. Silvia von Steinsdorff from the Institute of Social Sciences is investigating the role of the judiciary as an actor in democratic transformations in various countries. With the help of a Living Research Lab, new approaches are to be developed to strengthen the judiciary in times of authoritarian threats. Both projects combine scientific and practical perspectives.

[Read more about the projects](#)

New perspectives: Inviting visiting professors from the Collège de France

HU professors can now invite renowned academics from the Collège de France to Berlin for a guest stay. The HU-Collège de France Faculty Exchange Program 2025/26 enables public lectures, seminars and exchanges with students and researchers. Stays usually last one week and are financially supported. Depending on the duration of the planned visit and the number of associated lectures and workshops, applicants can receive up to 6,980 euros in funding. Applications can be submitted until 14 March.

[Download the call for applications](#)

[Download the application form](#)

Adlershof Dissertation Prize: Three nominees, three lectures - one prize

Three young researchers will present their dissertation topics in short, easy-to-understand talks on 20 March at 15:00, in the Erwin Schrödinger Center on the Adlershof campus. Whoever convinces the audience and the jury the most will win the Adlershof Dissertation Award, which is endowed with 3,000 euros. The prize has been awarded by Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, WISTA Management GmbH and IGAEA since 2002. The prize is awarded to excellent dissertations that have been written in Adlershof in the last 18 months. The nomination alone is worth 1,000 euros.

[Find out more about the young researchers](#)

Further training: Research and innovation with China

The China Competence Training Center (CCTC) invites university staff to a training course on "Research and Innovation with China". Participants will learn how to realistically assess the opportunities and risks of (research) cooperation and transfer projects in and with China. They develop strategies for dealing with legal, political and social challenges and learn to identify the opportunities that China offers in the field of research and transfer and to operationalise them for their internal target groups. In addition, the training program provides comprehensive basic knowledge about China. The China Competence Training Center (CCTC) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin regularly organises training courses, webinars and workshops on current China-related topics.

[Find out more and register for China training](#)

Open Access: DFG extends funding for HU Publication Fund

The German Research Foundation (DFG) will continue to support Humboldt-Universität's Open Access Publication Fund in the years 2025 to 2027. Researchers at HU can now submit funding proposals for the publication year 2025 to the University Library, which has successfully acquired this third-party funding. For seven years now, the fund has enabled HU members to publish scientific research results in freely accessible open access journals and as open access monographs and anthologies. The fund facilitates the worldwide dissemination of quality-tested research and thus promotes the open exchange of knowledge. If you have any questions, please contact the Open Access team by e-mail at: openaccess@ub.hu-berlin.de.

[Further information on Open Access funding](#)

Publish free of charge: DFG funds service center for Diamond Open Access

A consortium led by the university libraries of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, TU Darmstadt and the Max Weber Foundation is launching the establishment of a national service center for Diamond Open Access (SeDOA). The model enables authors to publish free of charge and is based on non-profit status. The aim of SeDOA is to network and optimize publication infrastructures and develop innovative services. The project is initially funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for three years and is part of a European network for the promotion of Open Access.

[Find out more about Diamond Open Access](#)

Workshop: Enabling online courses for vulnerable students

This best practice workshop is about safe virtual learning spaces for vulnerable students. How can lecturers avoid surveillance and interference from authoritarian regimes while keeping courses open and accessible? The workshop will provide information on the basics of digital diligence in virtual seminar rooms, digitally safe online learning methods and tools as well as best practices for safe online teaching that is collaborative, international and interactive. The event will take place online on 19 February from 13:00 to 16:00.

[Go to the event page](#)

Collection opening: Science & Poetry Slam on 28 February

The Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik (HZK) invites you to the opening of the scientific collection "History and Present of the Poetry Slam in German-speaking Countries". The evening will open with spoken word poetry by three outstanding slam poets. Afterwards, Dr. Oliver Zauzig will give a keynote speech on the importance of scientific collections at Humboldt-Universität. This will be followed by an audience discussion with Professor Dr. Petra Anders and representatives of the scene on research questions and exhibits in the collection. The event will take place on 28 February, 17:00 to 19:00, in the Objektlabor HZK, Campus Nord, Philippstr. 13.

[Find out more and register](#)

Call for applications: Caroline von Humboldt Professorship 2026

The Caroline von Humboldt Professorship to support outstanding female professors at HU will be awarded again in fall 2025. It is aimed at excellent, tenured female professors from all disciplines at HU who are characterized by their international reputation, the relevance of their research results beyond their own discipline and their outstanding publication activity. The professorship is associated with a one-year financial support of 80,000 euros. The deadline for nominations is 27 April.

[Find out more about the call for applications and nominations](#)

Circle U. Sandpits 2025: Apply for interdisciplinary project by 15 March

With the Sandpit formats, the European University Alliance offers researchers the opportunity to develop new projects and scientific innovations together with Circle U. colleagues from other disciplines. In 2025, the focus will be on the development of inter- and transdisciplinary projects on the topic of democracy. A two-part workshop is being prepared that will provide an opportunity to bring together researchers from the partner universities and associated partner institutions of the Circle U. University Alliance. The first session will take place on 27 May via video conference, while the second part will be held from 9 to 11 September in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. The application deadline is 15 March, and a limited number of travel grants are available.

[Read the call for applications](#)

[Submit an application](#)

Berlin University Alliance

Art meets science: Take part in the ideas competition until 15 March

Would you like to see your own research project as a poster on the streets of Berlin? With participation in the BUA ideas competition and a little luck, this wish can come true. Anyone who would like to take part and is researching the topics of global health, social cohesion, innovation and transfer, quantum technology or water can submit their project by 15 March. Berlin-based 3D artists will select five of the submissions and design posters from them. These will be shown in June as part of an exhibition and the Long Night of Science and distributed on social media.

[Read more information and take part](#)

Funding: Cooperation with Melbourne and Singapore

The Berlin University Alliance (BUA) is offering flexible funding for researchers who would like to expand their collaboration with colleagues at the strategic partner institutions University of Melbourne (UoM) and National University of Singapore (NUS). Tandems from BUA institutions and one of the aforementioned partner institutions are eligible to apply. Support is provided for joint projects, such as the preparation of joint publications, the organization of workshops and exhibitions. The maximum funding amount for collaborations with the University of Melbourne is 5,000 euros per application. For collaborations with the National University of Singapore, up to 7,500 euros are available. The deadline for submitting applications is 25 February.

[To the call for projects with the UoM](#)

[To the call for projects with the NUS](#)

Touring exhibition: Official opening on 19 February

On 19 February, the official opening of the travelling exhibition of the Berlin University Alliance will take place at the HU, which is currently on display in the main building. The exhibition organisers invite you to a "Meet the Scientists" at 12:30. The scientists Yong-Mi Raich, Head of the Department of Historical Collections at the HU University Library, and Manuela Bojadziev, Professor of Migration in Global Perspective at the Institute of European Ethnology at the HU, will present their projects funded by the Excellence Network on the digitisation and social networking of collections at the BUA institutions (Digital Network Collections) and on social solidarity in the areas of work, housing and health (Transforming Solidarities, Practices and Infrastructures in the Migration Society).

[Register for the exhibition opening](#)

Personalia

Obituary: Physicist Beate Röder passes away

The Institute of Physics mourns the loss of Prof. Dr. Beate Röder, an internationally renowned scientist and esteemed colleague. After studying biophysics at the State Gorky University in Kharkov, she completed her doctorate in 1982 at the Humboldt University in Berlin and the 2nd Moscow Medical University on the effect of photochemotherapy on cell membranes. From then on, her scientific interest focused on the photophysics of tetrapyrroles and the photodynamic effect - a field of research in which she became one of the world's leading experts. With her appointment as professor at the Institute of Physics at HU in 1993, Beate Röder had a significant impact on the scientific development of the institute. Until her retirement in 2017, she was committed to innovation in research and teaching. She was also passionately committed to disadvantaged groups, promoting women in physics and supporting refugees. Numerous young scientists found in her not only an inspiring mentor, but also a personal companion.

[Read obituary for Beate Röder](#)

Obituary: Mathematician and cultural scientist Jochen Brüning passes away

The mathematician and cultural scientist Prof. Dr. Jochen Brüning passed away on 16 January 2025. With his passing, science has lost a formative personality who crossed disciplinary boundaries and provided food for thought for interdisciplinary research. Brüning had been Professor of Mathematics at Humboldt University since 1995 and was an internationally respected researcher in the field of analysis. His work extended far beyond mathematics: as founding director of the Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik (HZK), he set standards for science communication and the exhibition of university collections. Brüning recognised the importance of university collections early on and was a pioneer in their digitisation and networking. His commitment, enthusiasm and strategic vision will remain unforgettable.

[Read obituary for Jochen Brüning](#)

New official bulletins

Current issues of the Official Bulletins can be found [here](#). Please send inquiries about AMBs to: frauke.weiss@ub.hu-berlin.de