



Interview: How the HU is dealing with dwindling resources and rising energy costs

As a result of the war in Ukraine, energy prices for gas and oil are rising - natural gas in particular is becoming more expensive. The discussion about saving energy is going on all over Germany. Measures must also be taken at the HU to save electricity and gas. The newly established Energy Task Force will develop an energy crisis roadmap in the upcoming weeks. Colleagues from the Technical Department, Energy and Climate Management, Occupational Health and Safety, representatives of the faculties as well as the central university administration, central facilities (e.g. computer and media service) and the General Staff Council are involved. Catrin Hedwig, Head of the Technical Department and Co-Coordinator of the Task Force, reports on the state of affairs in an interview.

[Read interview with Catrin Hedwig](#)

Out of line

Helping to shape the future: Register for climate protection workshops on 18th of August

The HU is also interested in the question of how to creatively save energy in preparation for a climate protection concept. The Climate Protection Management Team invites all members of Humboldt-Universität to contribute and discuss their ideas for climate protection and sustainability measures in two workshops on 18th of August. The focus will be on options for the fields of action research and governance. The workshops are open to all status groups at Humboldt-Universität. Registration via e-mail: klimaschutz@hu-berlin.de.

[View further information on the workshops](#)

Research & Teaching

Save the date: TU Cottbus and HU workshop on 14th of November

What potential for science and business can be found in the innovation corridor from Berlin's Adlershof Technology Park to the Lusatian Science Park? This question will be addressed by participants in a workshop at the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg and the HU. The aim is to raise the topics and formats of possible research cooperations across national borders. The workshop will take place on 14th of November, interested researchers are cordially invited to participate.

[Learn more about the workshop](#)

Science & communication: Knowledge is not enough!?

Droughts, storms, heat waves, melting glaciers and rising sea-levels: We're in trouble and have all the science to prove it. But is knowledge enough? How can we communicate climate science effectively and make a difference? And how can universities truly become drivers of sustainability? Join the debate on Thursday, 25 August, 4pm, in HU lecture theatre 1072 (main building) or online. The public panel discussion is a highlight of Circle U. summer school "Communicating Climate Science".

[Go to the Livestream](#)

Open Humboldt Freiräume: apply by 31st of October

Funding through "Open Humboldt Freiräume" enables HU researchers to receive a teaching reduction to 0 semester hours per week either in the summer semester 2023 or in the winter semester 2023/24. This will give the recipients more time to engage with society and to develop projects in the field of knowledge exchange and science communication. Professors, postdocs, postdoctoral researchers and doctoral students are eligible to apply. The application deadline is 31st of October.

[Find the call for applications for the 2023 summer semester or the 2023/24 winter semester](#)

[Go to the website of the Open Humboldt Freiräume funding line](#)

Administration & Service

For a (digital) coffee with... Katrin Rettel, Commissioner for students with disability and/or chronic illness

"The biggest barriers are in people's heads," says Katrin Rettel. "Sometimes it only takes one conversation to solve a problem or make it more bearable". In her everyday professional life, the Commissioner for students with disability and/or chronic illness advises prospective students and students, helping them to remove barriers so that they can study successfully at the HU. People don't always see their disabilities, and the counsellor, who knows the subject from her own experience, wants to raise awareness of this too.

[Read the portrait of Katrin Rettel](#)

Salary: Hourly rate for HU student employees to be raised retroactively

The minimum wage for employees of the state of Berlin and also of Berlin's universities is currently 13 euros per hour when the Berlin Minimum Wage Act comes into force on 17th of July. On 1st of October, the wage limit for marginal employment (mini-job limit) will also be raised to 520 euros per month. As a consequence, all HU student employees with a working time of 40 monthly hours, who previously benefited from student status in social security, would no longer fall under the so-called working student privilege and belong to the group of marginal employees. Humboldt University is therefore increasing the hourly rate for HU student employees to 13.01 euros, retroactive effect from 1 July. On the one hand, this implements the Berlin Minimum Wage Act ahead of schedule and, on the other hand, enables the application of the working student privilege beyond 1st of October in the aforementioned cases.

[Read more about pay for pay-scale employees on the intranet](#)

humboldt gemeinsam

If you have questions: Use SAP consultation hours

Colleagues who have questions about working with SAP software can contact Sven Hellweg and Kai-Thoralf Fischer from the humboldt together programme during the weekly SAP consultation hours. The two experts regularly answer questions about working with SAP. The consultation hours are open to all employees of the HU.

[Find out the dates of the consultation hours](#)

Berlin University Alliance

Science Poetry Slam: Registrations for 4th of October still possible

On 4th of October, the Berlin University Alliance, together with the Kiezpoeten, is organising the Science Poetry Slam at the Holzmarkt on the banks of the Spree. Scientists and scholars who want to present their research topic on stage in a close and authentic way in ten minutes are invited. Metaphors, anecdotes, interesting wordplay: There are no limits to creativity. The performers of the Science Poetry Slam will receive two exclusive workshops in advance to work together on their texts and performances and to optimally prepare for their stage appearance.

[Register for Science Poetry Slam](#)

Symposium: Science in Times of Fake News and Hate Speech

Scientists and experts from Oxford and Berlin recently met in Berlin to discuss challenges facing scientists in the public sphere. How can facts be communicated in times of political polarization? What role do fake news and hate speech play in the many-voiced debates on social media? Panel discussions and short presentations were on the agenda, as well as time for getting to know each other and exchanging ideas.

[Read the post-event report](#)

Personalia

Interview: „I would like to advance my academic career“

Former German water jumper Patrick Hausding has won many medals at Olympic Games, World and European Championships. In May this year, he announced his retirement from competitive sports. Since then, he has been concentrating on his studies at the HU, where he is studying sports and English to become a teacher. In the interview, he reports on how he is doing after his retirement and what advice he gives HU students who are involved in top-level sport.

[Read interview with Patrick Hausding](#)

In the media

FAZ: [Read article „What does the minister want“](#)

science@orf.at: [Read article „How luck returns“](#)

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Photo: Sven Ellerbrock

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