



Presidential Board: Humboldt-Universität is facing structural adjustments

Humboldt-Universität is facing a structural deficit averaging 8.7 million euros per year from 2025 to 2030. Savings are necessary in order to remain organisationally viable and to be able to fulfil all obligations under the university contract. Against this background, the Executive Board is planning a three-stage consolidation process. In this process, all necessary structural changes are to be tackled and implemented together with those involved. The measures are aimed at reducing the deficit while continuing to sharpen the HU's profile and guaranteeing appropriate framework conditions for excellent research and teaching. The topic will also be discussed in the public part of the Academic Senate on 13 February from 10 am. The meeting of the AS will be livestreamed.

[More on the consolidation process](#)

[AS meeting \(public part\) in the livestream](#)

Administration & Service

International Affairs: How the HU is strengthening its collaborations and which programmes are new

Princeton University, King's College London and Circle. U. - Humboldt-Universität maintains many international collaborations and launched important new projects with its partners last year. Study and graduate programmes are to be further internationalised with King's College, a new partnership agreement was signed with Princeton, opening up new opportunities for cooperation, and a new "Central Leadership Programme" will be set up with the Federal Foreign Office for students and doctoral candidates from all disciplines who want to get involved in the future of Europe. In this interview, Dr Yoan Vilain, Presidential Representative for International and European Affairs and Head of the Department of International Affairs, explains the areas in which the HU is focusing and what specific offers are available for Humboldtians.

[Read interview with Yoan Vilain](#)

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75 years ago: The name Humboldt-Universität became established

Since 8 February 1949, the University of Berlin has officially borne its current name: Humboldt-Universität. Founded in 1809, the alma mater had already resumed teaching three years earlier following the collapse of the Third Reich and the end of the Second World War. From 1828 to 1945, the educational institution bore the name Friedrich Wilhelm University in honour of its founder, Wilhelm III. In the context of the developing East-West conflict and under the influence of the Soviet military administration, the Academic Senate decided on 26 October 1948 to name the university after the famous Berlin universal scholars Wilhelm and Alexander von Humboldt and submitted a corresponding application to the German Administration for National Education.

[Find out more about the naming 75 years ago](#)

International Women's Day: Women's General Assembly on 11 March

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Central Women's and Equal Opportunities Officer cordially invites all women at HU to the Women's Assembly. This year's event will once again provide a platform for gender equality issues and an opportunity for women at this university to exchange ideas and network. The women's plenary session will take place on 11 March from 1 to 3 pm in the Senate Hall, Unter den Linden 6, and is entitled: "No room for assault. Sexualised discrimination, harassment and violence at the university". Afterwards, there will be an opportunity to talk to each other at a small reception.

[Further information on International Women's Day](#)

Online offer: open consultation hour administrative network

From 13 February from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, the Computer and Media Service will be offering a new open consultation hour for all employees of the central university administration every 14 days. The consultation hour is designed as an open format and offers the opportunity to obtain information on specific topics relating to current projects and changes within the IT infrastructure of the central university administration, as well as to exchange information on general questions and discussions.

[Find dates and zoom links](#)

Concerts: Verdi, Brahms and Dvořák are on the programme

Humboldt's Student Philharmonic Orchestra invites you to Johannes Brahms' "Symphony No. 2 in D major" and Antonín Dvořák's "Concerto for cello and orchestra in B minor op. 104" on 10 and 11 February. The concerts will take place in the Emmaus Church in Kreuzberg. The interplay between the HU Symphony Orchestra and Humboldt's Philharmonic Choir in the performance of Giuseppe Verdi's "Messa da Requiem" promises to be an impressive experience. The concert will take place on 16 February and 18 February. Tickets are available at all known advance booking offices.

[More about music at the HU](#)

Long Night of the Sciences: Register projects by 9 February

Researchers from all areas of science at HU are once again invited to take part in the Long Night of the Sciences. The "smartest night of the year" will take place on 22 June from 5 pm to midnight. And even if you are not an active participant, you should plan a visit. As in previous years, HU scientists will open their doors mainly on Campus Mitte and in Adlershof to give all visitors interested in science an insight into their research work. After a long absence, the Grimm Centre will once again be participating with interesting offers. All potential participants have until 9 February to register their participation with the HU's event management team.

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

Research & Teaching

Survey among lecturers: Attendance of students in courses

The reasons why students are absent from classroom teaching have been discussed for a long time. Again and again, and unfortunately more and more often, places in lectures and seminars remain empty. In order to better understand the causes of this development and to be able to take appropriate countermeasures, the Department of the Vice President for Academic Affairs is launching a short survey among teaching staff at HU. The aim is to develop measures to increase student attendance and participation in courses again. The survey is anonymous and only takes a few minutes.

If you have any questions or feedback on the survey, please contact the Quality Management Office at befragung-gm@hu-berlin.de

[Take part in the survey now](#)

Join in: online course on "edible cities" on 15 February

The "Edible Cities Network" project invites you to its last public event on 15 February at 12 noon. The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) "Making Cities Edible: Cultivating Sustainable Urban Environments" deals with the innovative concept of edible cities. Participants are invited to explore the intersection of urban development and food production and to explore the full potential of solutions for edible cities.

[Register for the event](#)

Object of the month: A house façade and the model of an ideal crystal

Invalidenstrasse 110, which will be extensively renovated in the coming years, was built in 1981 as an institute building for physics and electronics. At the time, the building also housed the crystallographic teaching collection. The object of the month for February is about the connection between an ideal crystal and the façade of Invalidenstraße 110, because the mathematical observation of the symmetry properties of crystals can not only be summarised in formulas, but also seen in other contexts. Is it all just pure coincidence?

[Read object of the month](#)

Love Data Week 2024: HU takes part from 12 to 16 February

Data is as unique and diverse as the researchers who work with and collect it. The international "Love Data Week" celebrates this special relationship this year from 12 to 16 February and the HU is also participating in the wide range of events with various lectures. What support does the HU offer me for my work with data and where do I go with it if I want to publish it? How do I make it FAIR in materials science and what should I bear in mind when granting licences? These and other questions are addressed by the coffee lectures at the HU, which are offered by the University Library, the Computer and Media Service, the Institute of Library and Information Science and the NFDI consortium "FAIRmat".

[To the Love Data Week programme](#)

German Study Award 2024: apply by 1 March

Every year, the Körber Foundation honours the best doctoral students of a year with the German Academic Award. The competition is aimed at young academics from all disciplines who have submitted an excellent dissertation of particular social significance in 2023. With three prizes of 25,000 euros each, the award is one of the most highly endowed prizes for young academics in Germany.

[More about participating in the study prize](#)

Experimental field: Apply for Interdisciplinary Centres 2024

Humboldt-Universität is once again inviting applications for Interdisciplinary Centres (IC) for 2024. All HU professors are eligible to apply. IZ are temporary research facilities of the HU in which scientists work together in an interdisciplinary research programme. They are considered institutional-structural experimental fields and are intended to recognise and implement potential areas of profiling for the university. Expressions of interest will be accepted until 29 February. The deadline for full proposals is 31 May.

[Further information and application documents](#)

Dissertation Prize Adlershof: Award ceremony on 13 February

Three nominees, three presentations: Whoever can best communicate their topic will win the Adlershof Dissertation Prize, which is endowed with 3,000 euros. On 13 February from 3 pm, three young researchers will present their dissertation topics live at the Erwin Schrödinger Centre on the Adlershof campus. A jury will decide who is the best. The event will also be broadcast via livestream.

[Find out more about the award ceremony](#)

KOSMOS reading: "Towards Zero Hunger" on 15 February

In this KOSMOS reading, economist Prof Tilman Brück explains how economic research can help to overcome hunger, even for the poorest people on earth. As part of his scientific research in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, Brück has investigated the question of how various risks potentiate each other and affect people's lives, income and food security. The holder of the Heisenberg Professorship of Economic Development and Food Security will present concrete interventions that help to end hunger worldwide. The lecture will be held in English on 15 February from 6 to 7:30 pm in the Senatssaal, Unter den Linden 6.

[More about the Kosmos lecture](#)

Berlin University Alliance

Excellence Strategy: Three new initiatives for the next round

Three initiatives from the Berlin University Alliance have successfully cleared an important hurdle in the Excellence Strategy research competition organised by the German federal and state governments. Following the positive assessment of their draft proposals, they can now apply for new Clusters of Excellence with full proposals. Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin is entering the finals of the Excellence Strategy with the two research projects "ImmunoPreCept" and "INTERACT", and Freie Universität Berlin with the draft proposal "Centre for Chiral Electronics".

[Read the joint press release of the BUA](#)

For doctoral candidates: Career Day 2024 on 5 March

The Humboldt Graduate School invites early career researchers from Berlin and Brandenburg to the Career Day for doctoral candidates. The Career Day is an annual event organised by the BUA as part of the Graduate Studies Support Programme and this year is aimed primarily at doctoral students from the natural and life sciences. They can find out about different career paths, network with each other and discuss in groups with experts from the fields of industry, communication, NGOs and consulting. 24 young academics will talk about their career entry, their professional career and their current work. The event will be held in English.

[Find out more and register for Career Day](#)

Up to date: BUA on the intranet and in the newsletter

If you want to keep up to date with important news from the BUA, events, calls for applications and sponsored projects, you can find them on the "Berlin University Alliance" page on the Humboldt Intern intranet. This is where the Department of Strategic Development provides all important information on an ongoing basis. The BUA also sends out the monthly BUA Newsletter, which also summarises all important news from the Berlin Excellence Alliance for readers.

[BUA on the intranet](#)

[Register and subscribe to the newsletter](#)

Personalia

Honour: Gabriele Metzler appointed to the Science Council

Prof. Dr Gabriele Metzler was appointed to the Science Council by the Federal President on 1 February for a period of three years. The Council advises the Federal Government and the governments of the federal states on fundamental issues relating to science, research and universities. Metzler is Professor of the History of Western Europe and Transatlantic Relations. She has been teaching and researching at Humboldt University since 2007 and is Chair of the University's Historical Commission. She has been a member of the Academic Senate and the Council of the HU since 2010. Her current research focuses on the transformation of statehood in the 20th century and the effects of decolonisation in Western European societies.

[Find out more about Gabriele Metzler](#)

New Official Bulletins

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



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Photo: Stefan Klenke

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