



Professional ethics guidelines: Freedom of science and expression in the public sphere

At a time when global crises are shaping our everyday lives, the expertise of scientists is more in demand than ever. However, public discourse in traditional and social media as well as on public podiums poses challenges for scientists. Researchers are often confronted with unobjective, one-sided and distorted criticism. The professional ethics guideline "Freedom of Science and Opinion in the Public Space", which was adopted by the Academic Senate on March 12, offers scientists guidance for critical discussions and debates in the public space and when dealing with social media. Case studies are used to explain how academic freedom and freedom of expression can be upheld in the public sphere, even in times of highly polarizing discussions.

[Read the professional ethics guide](#)

Administration & Service

Training: Research and innovation with China from May 31

HU's Continuing Professional Development invites you to participate in the new China Competence Program for non-scientific staff. Participants will learn 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 operationalize them for their internal target groups. In addition, the training program provides comprehensive basic knowledge about China. The first of five modules starts on May 31.

[Learn more about China training and register](#)

Security drill: Police simulate the highest threat level

On Friday 15 March, the Berlin police held a security exercise in the main building of Humboldt-Universität. The exercise consisted of two scenarios of the highest threat level (including a rampage and hostage-taking) and was accompanied by extras from the DLRG. Through the accompanying observation, the HU was able to derive insights for the organisation of its own emergency management, such as the need to revise building-specific warning systems or route guidance systems. The exercise was a valuable experience for both the Berlin police and the HU.

Photo gallery: What it was like at the Women's Assembly

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the staff of the Office of the Central Women's and Equal Opportunities Officer hosted a women's plenary session in the Senate Hall on March 11. After a welcoming address by HU President Julia von Blumenthal, poetry slammer Paulina Behrendt performed her text "Schweigepflicht", which exposes sexist norms and structures in our society. Afterwards, various aspects of the topic "Sexualized discrimination, harassment and violence at the university" were discussed in a World Café format.

[View photo gallery](#)

Girls' Day: giving girls an insight into working life

Every year, schoolgirls from the fifth grade onwards have the opportunity to get to know technology and science in everyday working life. Humboldt-Universität is once again taking part in Girls' Day this year with offers such as lab tours and experiments. Departments that would like to take part in Girls' Day on 25 April can still register their offers so that schoolgirls can sign up.

[Register your offer for Girls' Day](#)

Workshop: "Fundamentals of diversity competence"

The workshop "Fundamentals of Diversity Competence", which is offered throughout the year, is aimed at managers. In order to enable as many people as possible to participate, the workshops take place in Adlershof and Mitte, in presence and digitally, in German or English. The next workshops start at the beginning of the summer semester: on April 19 from 10 am to 5 pm (in German, Campus Mitte), on April 23 from 10 am to 5 pm (in English, Campus Adlershof), on April 24 from 10 am to 1.30 pm (in English, Zoom) and on April 29 from 10 am to 1.30 pm (in German, Zoom). Registration takes place via the professional development department.

[View and register for workshop dates 2024](#)

Research & Teaching

Partner Universities: apply for funding by April 19

Researchers, teachers and administrative staff who want to expand their cooperation with colleagues from the strategic partner universities Princeton, São Paulo, Zurich and HU partners in London, Toronto and Canberra can now apply for internal HU funding. Funding is available for joint publications, teaching activities, workshops, exhibitions, staff exchanges and much more. You can apply for financial support of between 2,500 and 5,000 euros per project until April 19.

[Further information and application forms](#)

Scholarships for the Transition from Master's to Doctorate: Apply until 15 May

The Humboldt-Universität once again awards Humboldt Research Track Scholarships. The six-months scholarship aims at outstanding Master's students as well as graduates who plan to pursue a doctorate and helps recipients to prepare for their doctoral thesis. To enable more prospective doctoral candidates with disabilities or chronic illnesses to prepare for a doctorate, applications from this target group will be given particular consideration. The current application period runs until 15 May for funding starting 1 August.

[Find more information on Scholarship](#)

Security: European Parliament adopts AI law

It has long been agreed that the use of artificial intelligence (AI) brings many benefits as well as risks. In order to mitigate the latter, the EU Parliament adopted an AI law. Among other things, it regulates copyright and discrimination issues. In future, the use of AI must be clearly identified if texts, images or videos on the internet and on social media platforms were created with its help. In addition, AI systems must not group people according to their political and religious views, sexual orientation or skin color. The law is expected to come into force in 2026.

[Read more about the AI Act](#)

For teachers: AI teaching certificate starts on March 22

Teachers with little or no prior knowledge of artificial intelligence can take part in the certificate program of the "KI-Campus 2.0 HU Berlin" project from 22 March. The program was developed at the "Career Center & Academic Continuing Education" in cooperation with "AI-SKILLS" and covers a wide range of topics from the basics of artificial intelligence to the design of appealing teaching materials.

[Further information on the AI teaching certificate](#)

Against right-wing extremism: "#Zusammenland - Vielfalt macht uns stark"

Humboldt-Universität is part of the nationwide campaign "#Zusammenland - Vielfalt macht uns stark" by Zeit, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Handelsblatt, WirtschaftsWoche, Tagesspiegel and Ströer. Together, over 500 companies and 350 academic institutions are taking a stand against right-wing extremism and committing to freedom, democracy, respect and diversity. The publishers and media companies had offered scientific institutions, companies, foundations and associations the opportunity to integrate their logo into a nationwide advertisement free of charge.

[Read more about #Zusammenland](#)

Call for Participation for TURN24: Policy and practice for innovative teaching

The call for participation for TURN24, which is being organized this year by German U15 on 14/15 November in Berlin, is open until 12 April. The event "Connecting Horizons - Politics and Practice for Innovative Teaching" is all about an exchange of perspectives between politics and practice. We are looking for contributions for community formats such as short presentations, workshops, world cafés and practical discussions on the following topics: Spaces and Learning Environments, Future Skills and Structures, AI and Technology, and Science and Society. The TURN Conference is a series of conferences on teaching and learning at universities.

[Learn more about the TURN Conference](#)

Berlin University Alliance

From Research to Market Challenge: apply by April 5

The "Research to Market Challenge" ideas competition invites members and alumni of the network partners to further develop application and start-up ideas from their research. We are looking for business ideas in three categories: Technologies & Resources, Sustainability & Society and Healthcare & Prevention. Prize money totaling 12,000 euros will be awarded, including a cross-category special prize on the topic of artificial intelligence. Applications can be submitted until April 5. The competition is organized by "Science & Startups", the association of start-up services from the BUA.

[Find out more about the ideas competition](#)

For doctoral candidates: Continuing education offer on April 12

The Berlin University Alliance is also committed to improving working and research conditions for all doctoral students of the four alliance partners. In the "Graduate Studies Support Program", joint offers for training and further education as well as mentoring and support play a central role. In this context, the presence workshop "Efficient and (plagiarism) safe handling of specialist literature" will take place on April 12 at the Humboldt Graduate School.

[Register for the event on April 12](#)

[Learn more about the graduate program](#)

Personalia

Agricultural expertise: Peter H. Feindt elected to new DFG commission

Peter H. Feindt, Professor of Agricultural and Food Policy at HU, has been appointed by the German Research Foundation (DFG) as a member of the newly established "Permanent Senate Commission on the Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems". With 18 members from all scientific fields, the commission has broad scientific expertise and takes a systemic view of the transformation of agricultural and food systems. Feindt comes from the social sciences and works in a highly interdisciplinary manner. In his research, he addresses a wide range of agricultural and food policy issues, in particular the links to environmental policy, sustainability transformations, resilience and social cohesion.

Success: HU law students win national Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court

Students from the Faculty of Law prevailed against 17 other teams in the national preliminary round of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court in Münster at the beginning of March. Participants from Humboldt-Universität last achieved overall victory in this competition in 2017. This year, Philipp Rehm also won the "Best Oralist in the Championship Round" award. On April 6, the HU team will compete in the final of the Jessup Moot Court in Washington, D.C. The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court is one of the most prestigious and largest moot courts in the world. Participants simulate a fictitious international law case before the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

[Learn more about Law Moot Court](#)

Honor: Dietrich Benner Prize for lifetime achievement

Prof. em. Dr. Dr. hc mult. Dietrich Benner was awarded the prestigious Ernst Christian Trapp Prize by the German Society for Educational Science (DGfE) on March 11 for his academic life's work. With this award, the DGfE honors members for their innovative and unconventional scientific achievements. Benner held the Chair of General Educational Science at Humboldt University from 1991 to 2009.

[Read more about Dietrich Benner](#)

In Media

F.A.Z. Podcast: "The benefit that Putin is not a madman"

Historian Jörg Baberowski: "The benefit that Putin is not a madman, but predictable."

[Listen to the F.A.Z. podcast for Germany from March 13](#)

New Official Bulletins

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