



Humboldt Teaching and Learning Day: focus on international teaching and learning on June 27

On June 27, the Humboldt Teaching and Learning Day will be all about "International Teaching and Learning". From 13:30 to 16:00, all Humboldtians can take part in a diverse program at various HU locations. The Department of International Affairs is organizing a cross-faculty exchange of experiences on worldwide study programmes to discuss the current status and future developments. The Vice President for Teaching and Studies, Prof. Dr. Niels Pinkwart, invites you to an exchange on the strategic orientation of various teaching awards at HU and state level. The Faculty of Business and Economics will be taking a sporty approach with desk bikes, standing tables and exercise balls to try out how "movement" can be incorporated into teaching. At 3:30 pm, all participants come together in the Senate Hall of the main building for presentations and discussions (also hybrid via Zoom). The highlight of the day is the presentation of the Award for Good Teaching.

[View the Humboldt Day program](#)

Out of Line

Photo gallery: This was the Long Night of Science 2024

A relaxed atmosphere, exciting programme items and even more visitors than last year - that's the summary of the Long Night of Sciences Night of Sciences, which took place on 22 June at the HU on the campuses in Mitte, Adlershof and North campuses, in the Späth Arboretum and in the Humboldt Lab took place. More than 170 events awaited the visitors

Humboldt-Universität: a live broadcast to the Arctic, guided tours at dusk, experiments twilight, experiments, lectures, virtual reality, soundwalks and much more. Special thanks to all colleagues who made this night possible made this night possible. The next Long Night will take place on 28 June 2025.

[Go to the photo gallery.](#)

Administration & Service

Saving pressure: HU has to cut 12.1 million euros

Like many other budget items, the Berlin Senate's science budget has been subject to an across-the-board reduction in spending. Berlin's universities now have to save 55.2 million euros in the current year. In this context, HU will have to make a savings contribution of 12.1 million euros in 2024, which can be made from residual and reserve management without having to intervene in existing personnel and material budgets. According to calculations by the Senate Administration, the basis for the savings contribution is the reserves available until 2022. In view of HU's structural deficit, the savings targets are an additional burden and will limit the scope for action in the coming years. However, the Presidential Board has accepted these after consideration, also in order to maintain the recently concluded university contract. At the same time, talks are currently underway between the university presidia and the responsible Senate administration to concretise an "agility plan for Berlin science", which is intended to improve the universities' scope for action. The university management will provide information on the current status in the upcoming committee meetings.

Presidential Board: Together back to a respectful discourse

Following the events surrounding the occupation of the Institute of Social Sciences, the members of the Presidential Board have written an open letter thanking all Humboldtians who have shown their commitment to the university in this crisis situation. The most important thing these days is to make the university a safe space for all members again, especially for Jewish students and staff. There is no place for any form of discrimination, hatred and agitation at this university. They will be consistently prosecuted. The HU is committed to dialog and the examination of different perspectives, especially in connection with the Middle East conflict and the topic of anti-Semitism. Renovation work is currently underway at Universitätsstraße 3 with the aim of resuming normal teaching activities in the institute's rooms as soon as possible.

[Read the letter from the Presidential Board](#)

AI services of the CMS: Using large language models safely

The HU's Computer and Media Service (CMS) is making AI alternatives to ChatGPT or Google Gemini available to all HU members. This allows all members of the university to use and try out the possibilities of Large Language Models without running the risk of their personal data being disclosed or used by third parties. The CMS AI tools can only be used in the HU network or via VPN.

[Find out more about the new AI services](#)

Elected: Nana Chanishvili-Schön is the new decentralized Women's and Gender Equality Officer

Nana Chanishvili-Schön has been elected as the new decentralized Women's and Equal Opportunities Officer of the Central University Administration (ZUV). The employee of the Planning and Management Department received 46 votes. Diana Metz-Wassenberg, an employee at the Research Service Center, was elected deputy with 33 votes. The voter turnout was 13.7 percent. As soon as the appointment comes into force, Nana Chanishvili-Schön will take over from Christine Druse, the long-standing decentralized Women's and Equal Opportunities Officer from the Technical Department.

[Find out more about the decentralized women's and equal opportunities officers](#)

City Cycling 2024: HU in 3rd place with new best performance

A fantastic result for Humboldt-Universität in City Cycling 2024! "With a total of 169,323 kilometres and 785 active cyclists, the HU city cycling team secured the top spot among Berlin's universities and took 3rd place," says Wolfgang Deicke, who registered the HU team. "Thanks to over 340 more active participants than in 2023, the Humboldtians did two places better than last year. I'm delighted with the result."

[Read commentary on city cycling](#)

Together against blood cancer: registration campaign on July 4 on the North Campus

University Health Management is holding a third registration campaign for potential stem cell donors. Stem cell donations are often the last chance of a cure for blood cancer patients. For this to happen, the tissue characteristics of the patient and donor must match almost completely. In principle, any healthy person between the ages of 17 and 55 can register as a potential stem cell donor and remain on the register until their 61st birthday. Tissue characteristics are determined using a simple cheek swab. The registration campaign will take place on July 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Campus North.

[Find out more about the registration campaign](#)

Sustainability at HU: New opportunities to get involved

HU has been an institutional member of the German Society for Sustainability at Universities e.V. (DG HochN) since 2024. In the society, members of universities throughout Germany network to promote the implementation of the UNESCO program "Education for Sustainable Development for 2030". The DG HochN mainly organizes hubs (virtual meeting places) where members meet in a largely self-organized manner to promote sustainability topics. There is also a knowledge wiki that everyone can contribute to. Currently, more than 1200 people are already members of the network. Every Humboldtian is also very welcome.

[Find out more about DG HochN](#)

Family day: sailing, stand-up paddling and relaxing on July 6

University Sports and the HU Family Office cordially invite all university members to the third Family Day on July 6 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the HU Water Sports Center in Schmöckwitz. Spend a relaxing day together with your children and the families of colleagues and fellow students at Lake Zeuthen in south-east Berlin. Sailing, stand-up paddling, boating and a range of other hands-on activities on the water and on land are on the program for young and old.

[Find out more about the family day](#)

Humboldt Labor: HU President welcomes 250,000 visitors

A quarter of a million people have visited the Humboldt Labor since it opened in 2021. HU President Prof. Dr. Julia von Blumenthal and Dr. Anna-Lisa Dieter, curator at the Humboldt Lab, jointly welcomed the 250,000th visitor to the science exhibition "After Nature" at the Humboldt Forum. Andreas Erlacher from South Tyrol was visibly delighted to receive the 3D reprint of one of the most popular exhibits, a golden pangolin. The exhibition, which has been running since the opening of the Humboldt Lab, will be on display until next summer. After that, it will enter the renovation phase: in fall 2025, researchers from the HU and the other BUA partners will dedicate themselves to the element "water" in the new exhibition.

[Find out more about the Humboldt Lab](#)

Research & Teaching

Hybrid teaching: new formats will be discussed and tested throughout the week

The first "Teaching Theme Week" runs until June 28. The focus is on the opportunities and possibilities of hybrid teaching. All teaching staff, students and employees are cordially invited to take part. The program includes discussion events, many practical examples and opportunities to try things out. With a focus on inclusion, flexibility and internationalization, participants will explore the question of what contribution hybrid teaching and learning formats can make to improving teaching. Most of the events themselves will take place in hybrid format.

[More about the theme week](#)

Invitation to all lecturers: Take part in the AI survey

All teaching staff at Humboldt-Universität are invited to take part in the survey as part of the AI Campus 2.0 project. The survey examines attitudes and approaches to artificial intelligence (AI) in higher education, the use of AI in research and teaching, AI-related skills, the curricular anchoring of AI and current needs. Participation takes about 15 to 20 minutes and is anonymous.

[Take part in the survey.](#)

Artificial intelligence: Workshop on the new Circle U. Knowledge Hub

Circle U. cordially invites all colleagues at HU who work and research on the topic of artificial intelligence: On July 16 from 5 to 6:30 pm, a workshop will take place in the main building, room 1066e, at which the foundation stone for the new Circle U. Knowledge Hub "Artificial Intelligence" at HU will be laid. The Vice President for Teaching and Studies Niels Pinkwart and representatives of the Impact, AI Skills and AI Campus projects will be present. Various discussion rounds on the format of the Knowledge Hub are planned. Take this opportunity to find out more about your cooperation opportunities within Circle U. and to network with colleagues from different areas of the university. The event will be held in English.

[Register to participate in the workshop](#)

Circle U. Seed Funding Call 2024: Apply by October 15

Researchers, administrative staff and students can now take part in the Circle U. Seed Funding Call 2024 to receive support for the implementation of their innovative ideas. Funding is available for projects at all Circle U. institutions that involve new collaborations and bottom-up initiatives. The aim is to initiate projects that fit Circle U.'s mission and pave the way for long-term partnerships. The projects must involve at least three people from Circle U. member universities. The application deadline is October 15.

[Learn more about Seed Funding Call 2024](#)

Lecture on July 4: Academic freedom and crisis of confidence in democracies

Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Professor at Princeton University, will give a public lecture at HU. He will speak on the topic: "They Don't Mean What They Say": Academic Freedom and the Crisis of Trust in Comparative Perspective" and explore the question of why academic freedom has become such a controversial issue in contemporary democracies. The lecture is part of the Academic Freedom Week of HU and will take place on July 4 at 5 p.m. in the Lichthof Ost of the main building, Unter den Linden 6.

[Learn more about the Academic Freedom Week](#)

Flex Funds with strategic partner universities of the HU: Apply until July 31

Employees of the HU once again have the opportunity to apply for internal HU funding for cooperation projects with the HU's strategic partner universities in Princeton, São Paulo (USP) and Zurich (UZH) as well as with our partners in London (KCL), Toronto (UofT) and Canberra (ANU). Funding is available for joint publications, teaching activities, workshops, exhibitions and temporary staff exchanges. Funds of between 2,500 and 5,000 euros are available per project. The deadline for submissions is July 31.

[Go to the calls for proposals](#)

Berlin University Alliance

For postdocs: International networking event on July 8

The BUA Postdoc Academy invites postdocs from all disciplines to an international networking event. The event offers researchers at early career stages the opportunity to make contacts and explore opportunities for career development through global networking. Christian Kobsda, Head of the Berlin Office of the Max Planck Society, will share his expertise on international scientific collaboration. A workshop will provide practical skills and strategies for successful networking. The event will take place at the Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

[Register now for network meetings](#)

Berlin Science Survey: Discrimination in science

In the current Berlin Science Survey (BSS), participants were asked whether they had observed or experienced discrimination in their current workplace. The results show that discrimination is a widespread phenomenon. 23 percent of scientists stated that they had experienced discrimination themselves at least once in their current working environment within the last 24 months. Of these, 9.3 percent have experienced it several times and 3.2 percent even regularly. Just under 40 percent state that they have observed discrimination at least once. To date, 2,776 academics from the Berlin research area have taken part in the latest study. The BSS is a scientific trend study by the Robert K. Merton Center for Science Studies at the HU on cultural change in the Berlin research landscape.

[Read detailed results](#)

Personalia

Honored: Dr. Gustav Mogull receives the Karl Scheel Prize

The young scientist Dr. Gustav Mogull, who conducts research at the HU Institute of Physics and the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics, has been awarded the prestigious Karl Scheel Prize for his groundbreaking work in the field of general relativity and gravitational wave physics. In a series of papers, Mogull was able to derive important physical observables for the dynamics of black holes and neutron stars. His results are already being used in the modeling of gravitational wave signals for the data analysis of current and planned gravitational wave detectors.

[Learn more about award winners and research](#)

In memory: Professor Dr. Heike Schweitzer passes away

It is with great sadness and sorrow that the Faculty of Law announces that Heike Schweitzer, Professor of Civil Law, German and European Business and Competition Law and Economics, has passed away after a serious illness at the age of 56. As a proven expert in these fields, she also advised on digitalization and competition policy at EU level. In addition, her research also focused on European economic regulatory law, state aid law, the law of digital markets and financial market law. In Heike Schweitzer, the University has lost one of the leading legal scholars of her generation and a highly esteemed colleague and lecturer. A memorial service will be held on July 11. Where is still missing. A memorial service will be held on 11 July 2024 at 6 p.m. in the foyer of the "Kommode" of the Faculty of Law.

New Official Bulletins

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