



Award for good teaching 2023: Heike Wieters and Johannes Grandits honoured

Prof. Dr. Niels Pinkwart, Vice President for Teaching and Studies (pictured, centre), presented the HU's Award for good teaching 2023 to two lecturers on 27 June: Prof. Dr. Heike Wieters and Prof. Dr. Johannes Grandits from the Institute of History were honoured for their outstanding achievements in the area of "International Teaching and Learning". They were honoured for their joint seminar "How to do European History? Current approaches and controversies", which they held together with colleagues from various partner universities in a hybrid format in the summer semester of 2023. A total of 100 nominators submitted proposals in the selection process and nominated 42 events and 38 lecturers. The HU's Award for good teaching, which is endowed with 10,000 euros, is one of the most highly endowed of its kind in Germany. Read the interview to find out what Heike Wieters and Johannes Grandits learnt and experienced from the seminar and what they plan to do with the prize money.

[Read the interview with Wieters and Grandits](#)

Out of Order

Let's grow old together: Plant sponsors wanted for arboretum

The Späth Arboretum is the botanical garden of the HU and has been a testimony to a world-famous tree nursery for over 140 years. The unique historical collection of trees and shrubs is used for research and teaching at the university, but also for general environmental education and is appreciated by many Berliners as a local recreation area. Interested parties can now support the preservation and maintenance of this valuable biotope and educational work by sponsoring a plant. Donors have the opportunity to sponsor a tree, small shrub, fern or herb and receive a personalised plaque on their sponsored plant from a donation of 200 euros. The sponsorship is valid for one year and can be extended up to four weeks before the end of the year at the latest. The donations go towards the garden maintenance and its ecological redesign, the restoration of the ponds and the safeguarding and expansion of the educational programme for visitors.

[Donate and become an arboretum plant sponsor](#)

Administration & Service

Gallery of Honour: Ceremonial unveiling of the new additions on 15 July

Humboldt-Universität's Gallery of Honour in the main building is being expanded: the new additions will be officially unveiled on 15 July at 5:30 pm. HU President Prof. Dr. Julia von Blumenthal will give a welcoming address and the Chair of the Historical Commission, Prof. Gabriele Metzler, will give an introduction. The following people will be added to the gallery: Henrik Steffens, Mathilde Vaering, Victor Klemperer, Albrecht Daniel Thaer, Marie Jalowicz Simon, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Charlotte Leubuscher.

[Find out more about the Gallery of Honour](#)

Committees: Academic Senate meets on 16 July

The Academic Senate will meet on 16 July in the Senate Hall in the main building. The agenda includes the establishment of the teaching-related Master's degree programme "Islamic Religious Studies for Teaching at Integrated Secondary Schools and Grammar Schools" and the continuing education Master's degree programme "Humboldt Master of Laws" (LL.M.) as well as the Presidential Board's new guidelines on the employment of temporary academic staff. The meeting can be followed via live stream.

[Watch AS via livestream](#)

HPC@HU: High-Performance Computing at the HU

The Computer and Media Service of the HU provides a powerful high-performance computing platform with HPC@HU. This infrastructure supports computationally intensive tasks in the fields of simulation, data mining, machine learning, artificial intelligence and other application areas that work with large amounts of data and complex models. University researchers and teaching staff can use HPC@HU to carry out sophisticated calculations and analyses. Test access to the "Azimuth" platform can be requested at hpc-support@hu-berlin.de. Access is only possible from the HU network or via VPN.

[Find out more about HPC@HU](#)

Daycare centre strike: flexible arrangements for employees with children

Parents whose children are cared for in the state of Berlin's own daycare centres must continue to prepare for closures of several days in July. The Verdi trade union is continuing its day-care centre strikes. For many parents, this means that a stress limit has been exceeded, as childcare times were often restricted during the winter due to waves of illness and staff shortages. In order to support employees in this situation, the university management has made arrangements that allow for more flexible working hours.

[Find out more about the regulations](#)

Summer concerts in July: Shostakovich, Britten and more

The HU Symphony Orchestra will be performing Dmitri Shostakovich's monumental 10th Symphony on 13 July at 8 pm and 14 July at 5 pm in the Parochialkirche in Mitte. It will be preceded by Benjamin Britten's "Four Sea Interludes": atmospheric orchestral works that combine a colourful depiction of nature with the psychogram of the title character from the opera "Peter Grimes". The programme by Humboldt's Philharmonic Choir and Humboldt's Student Philharmonic Orchestra is all about peace. At the centre is Ralph Vaughan Williams' impressive "Dona nobis pacem", a plea for peace that is inspired by the composer's experiences during the First World War. The programme will be performed in the Gedächtniskirche on 18 and 19 July, both at 7 pm.

[Buy tickets for symphonic orchestras at reservix](#)

[Buy tickets for Humboldt's Philharmonic Choir reservix](#)

Portrait: Nana Chanishvili-Schön's commitment to women's rights

Nana Chanishvili-Schön grew up in Georgia. She learnt early on how to assert herself in a male-dominated environment and, despite social resistance, pushed through her wishes, for example to be allowed to train in karate as a girl. Since June of this year, she has been the decentralised Women's and Gender Equality Officer at the Central University Administration (ZUV), where she aims to advocate for fair pay and the defence of progress already made for women. She advises women, checks documents and accompanies job interviews. Her own experiences as a migrant woman who integrated and studied in Germany are helpful in this regard. The Controller of the Planning and Control department finds the participation rate of just 13.7 per cent in the election of decentralised women's and equal opportunities officers sobering. "My aim is to find out why there is so little interest and to change that."

[Read portrait about Nana Chanishvili-Schön](#)

Campaign: donate blood on 26 July in the main building

Every day, up to 15,000 blood donations are needed across Germany due to accidents and illnesses. To ensure that this demand can be met, it is so important that there are enough people who donate their blood for the sick. Unfortunately, only three per cent of the population in Germany donate their blood. In cooperation between the Primary School Teaching Student Council, the German Red Cross and the University Health Management, a blood donation campaign will take place on 26 July from 12 to 4 pm in room 2249 a on the 1st floor mezzanine in the main building. Appointments can be booked online.

[Find out more about the blood donation campaign and book an appointment](#)

Mobility: Summer business trips and overnight stays for guests

Can I combine a business trip with my summer holiday and what do I need to bear in mind? What does the new tax ID regulation mean for booking guest travel? How much does the Germany semester ticket cost, which is compulsory for students, student employees and doctoral students from the winter semester onwards? Information and tips on these and other questions can be found in the current July issue of the "Mobility and Travel" newsletter from the Department of Budget and Human Resources. The newsletter is published in German and English and can be subscribed to.

[Read the travel newsletter](#)

Continuing education: courses on motivation and stress prevention

Everyday university and professional life presents employees with a variety of challenges in their dealings with one another. The Human Resources Development Department is offering two online workshops at the end of August on the two important topics of motivating employees and preventing and reducing racism. In addition, the web-based training programme "LinkedIn Learning" is available to all HU employees at any time. The programme includes courses on stress prevention and mindfulness, improving IT skills, working from home and much more.

[For further vocational training](#)

Research & Teaching

European Campus: Circle U. provides information on new platform on 16 July

How can nine European universities bring their courses together? What opportunities can a virtual European campus offer for half a million students? And what will this look like in practice? On 16 July from 14:30 to 16:00, the Dean of the Circle U.

Open Campus will provide information on the current status and plans for the new platform. There will also be space for questions and networking opportunities. The event will take place in room 1066e and can also be followed online.

[Register for participation](#)

Workshops in July: Good scientific practice and effective networking

The Humboldt Graduate School regularly offers workshops and selected events from graduate centres and doctoral programmes for early career researchers. On 12 July, the workshop "Good Scientific Practice (Social Sciences and Humanities)" will take place as an online event from 10 am to 5 pm. On 18 and 19 July, the focus will be on building a well-functioning network: "Make Contacts that Count: Live, Virtual and Online Networking and Personal Branding (EN)" is the title of the event, which will also take place via Zoom.

[Find out more about workshops and register](#)

Climate Science Days: submit proposals by 20 July

The Climate Change Center Berlin Brandenburg (CCC) is organising the first "CCC Climate Science Days" on 13 and 14 November, which will focus on climate and sustainability issues in Berlin and Brandenburg. The contributions to the core programme will focus either on "Green Innovations/Climate Tech", "Positive Future Scenarios" or "Transformative Science". Proposals for contributions can be submitted until 20 July. The CCC is an inter- and transdisciplinary centre for research and knowledge transfer in which the HU is also involved. It works together with representatives from science, politics, business, civil society and culture on solutions to make Berlin and Brandenburg climate-neutral and adapt to the consequences of the climate crisis.

[Go to the CCC Call](#)

Artificial Intelligence: Workshop on the new Circle U. Knowledge Hub on 16 July

Circle U. invites all colleagues at HU who work and research on the topic of artificial intelligence: On 16 July 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. The English-language event offers the opportunity to learn more about cooperation opportunities in Circle U. and to network with colleagues from different areas of the university.

[Register to participate in the workshop](#)

Berlin University Alliance

Change of office: FU President new spokesperson for the network

Prof. Dr. Günter M. Ziegler, President of Freie Universität, has been at the helm of the Excellence Network since 1 July. He replaces Prof. Dr. Geraldine Rauch from the Technical University. The spokespersonship of the BUA rotates within the Board of Directors, which includes the presidents of the three universities and the chair of the Charité Executive Board. In the near future, the BUA will continue to develop its strategy and the application and review process with a view to continuing the BUA beyond 2026. Next year, high-ranking international experts will evaluate the Excellence Strategy competition organised by the federal and state governments. In 2026, the decision will be made as to whether the BUA will continue to be funded as a Network of Excellence from 2027.

[Read more about the change of office](#)

Personalia

Climate research: Economists receive award from the American Accounting Association

Together with an international team, HU economists Joachim Gassen and Simone Euler have investigated how information about the carbon footprint influences the purchasing behaviour of customers of canteens and cafeterias of the Munich Student Union. Their study "How Does Carbon Footprint Information Affect Consumer Choice? A Field Experiment", which was published in the Journal of Accounting Research, was recently honoured with the American Accounting Association (AAA) award.

[Learn more about the study and award winners](#)

New Official Bulletins

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



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Photo: Daria Dydzinska

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