



Olympic Games: Six HU athletes compete in various sports

The German Olympic team includes six students from Humboldt-Universität who have been preparing intensively for their competitions over the past few months and are showing that top-class sport and studying can be combined. HU has been supporting athletes very successfully for more than twenty years with the ‘Study and top-class sport’ programme. The diverse offer ranges from the development of more flexible models for organising studies to individual counselling and raising awareness of sport-related needs among the university public. The Olympic Games in Paris will take place from 26 July to 11 August. More than 10,000 athletes and 13 million visitors from all over the world are expected in France. Photo: Annika Zillekens (L.) is a modern pentathlete.

[Find out which students are taking part in the Olympics and when they can be seen competing](#)

Administration & Service

New website: Invitation to the kick-off on 27 September

The website is the HU's central means of communication and its digital showcase to the world. In order to fulfil all the requirements of a modern website and offer an optimal user experience, the outdated website will be completely redesigned and technically revised over the next few months. All employees are cordially invited to the kick-off event on 27 September from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Senate Hall in the main building. After a presentation of the project, there will be an opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas on the focus topics. The FAQ for the website on the intranet is updated on an ongoing basis.

[Find out more about the website project and register for the kick-off](#)

Digitalisation: ‘We need to establish good, clearly described and transparent processes’

The large SAP packages have been put into operation at HU and the systems are up and running. However, there is still a need for optimisation. An analysis carried out in recent months shows that data is still being entered manually several times. This is time-consuming, ties up personnel resources and is prone to errors. With the help of two new tools, the processes in room and travel management are to be optimised and the introduction of a new electronic time recording system is also on the agenda. Niels Helle-Meyer, Vice President for Budget, Human Resources and Technology, discusses the challenges of digitalisation for the university and emphasises the need for good, clearly described and transparent processes in an interview.

[Read interview with Helle-Meyer](#)

Good news: Wage for student employees at universities is rising

There is good news for student employees at Berlin's universities: Berlin's universities have been able to agree a significant pay rise with the Student Employees' Wage Commission of the trade unions ver.di and GEW. With retroactive effect from 1 May 2024, the universities will follow the Berlin state minimum wage, which is more than 1 euro per hour above the federal minimum wage, by setting 13.69 euros per hour in the collective agreement for student employees (TV Stud III). This means that wages for student employees this year are already significantly higher than the recommendations of the guideline of the Collective Agreement of the German Federal States. From 1 January 2025, their hourly wage will be increased to 14.32 euros, which is even higher than in all other federal states.

Heat: protective measures for the workplace

In view of the high temperatures, the Personnel Department would like to point out the tried-and-tested measures for dealing with the summer temperatures outside. Users of hot rooms should make efficient use of sun protection and ventilation: Keep blinds closed, ventilate at night, switch on fans and switch off unnecessary electrical appliances. Temporarily relocating to cooler offices that are vacant due to holidays is also an option. Employees can also reduce core working hours in accordance with a service agreement or agree additional agreements on mobile working with their line manager.

[Read more about heat protection](#)

Research & Teaching

Final call: survey on AI in higher education

Until 31 July, HU teaching staff can take part in the survey on AI in higher education. The question is whether and how AI can be (increasingly) integrated into regular teaching at HU. Participation in the survey takes about 15 to 20 minutes and is anonymous. All lecturers at the HU are asked - regardless of whether AI already plays a role in their teaching or not.

[Take part in the survey now](#)

Save-the-Date: Adlershof Research Forum on 11 November

Humboldt-Universität, the research network IGAFa e. V. and WISTA Management GmbH invite you to the Adlershof Research Forum (AFF), which offers insights into research highlights from Adlershof at the end of Berlin Science Week. PhD students and postdocs can submit proposals for the AFF poster show until 14 October. The best poster will be awarded 500 euros. The research forum will take place on 11 November from 11 am to 4 pm at the Erwin Schrödinger Centre.

[Find out more about AFF and register your poster](#)

Emmy Noether Programme: Nakib Protik and Stefanie Alisch receive funding

The German Research Foundation has established two new Emmy Noether Research Groups at the HU. They will be funded with approximately 1.5 million euros each. Dr Nakib H. Protik is head of the Theoretical Transport Physics group at the Institute of Physics. He is researching the transport properties of materials in the ‘Dragonics’ project. Dr Stefanie Alisch from the Institute of Musicology and Media Studies is investigating sound systems as a form of musical performance with the interdisciplinary research group ‘Sound System Epistemologies: Knowledge engendered through Practice’. The Emmy Noether Programme supports outstanding young researchers on their way to a professorship.

[Read more about the research groups](#)

Launched: Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies

Humboldt-Universität is one of the six strategic partners of the ‘Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies’ (KIU). The project, which was officially opened in July, is led by the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder. KIU is being funded by the German Academic Exchange Service for four years. It serves to strengthen Ukraine-related research, teaching, networking and transfer activities.

Berlin University Alliance

Call for proposals: Open spaces for the exchange of knowledge with society

The Open Humboldt Freiräume funding line at the Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik offers researchers the opportunity to take time to engage with society and develop participatory projects. For a project in collaboration with societal partners, funding recipients will receive a reduction in teaching hours to 0 semester hours per week for the summer semester 2025 or the winter semester 2025/26 and funding for a teaching substitute, which will be financed by the BUA. Professors, postdocs, habilitated academic staff and doctoral candidates at HU are eligible to apply. The application deadline is 11 October. Information events will take place online on 13 August and 19 September.

[Learn more about Open Humboldt Freiräume](#)

Personalia

Unretirement: Elmar Kulke bids farewell to the Academic Senate

Economic geographer Prof Dr Elmar Kulke is retiring, but will remain at Humboldt-Universität as a senior professor at the Institute of Geography. HU President Julia von Blumenthal bid farewell to the economic geographer at the last AS meeting and emphasised his great commitment and his balanced, pragmatic attitude in the AS. Kulke was a senator from 2006 to 2017 and from 2019 to 2024. From 1998 to 2000, he assumed responsibility as Vice President of the HU, chaired the Development Planning Commission (EPK) for many years and was most recently a member of the HU's Constitutional Commission. He oversaw the relocation of the mathematics and natural sciences institutes to the Adlershof campus and managed the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences as Dean for many years. Kulke's work in economic geography focuses primarily on the geography of services and the analysis of value chains; his regional focus is on Central Europe and East Africa.

Honour: Horst Bredekamp becomes a member of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts

The art historian Prof Dr Horst Bredekamp has been elected a full member of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts. Bredekamp, Professor of Art and Visual History since 1993 and Senior Speaker of the HU Cluster of Excellence Matters of Activity since 2019, is one of the most distinguished representatives of his field. His academic career combines classical art historical topics with more recent theoretical approaches to visual studies and spans epochs from the Romanesque period, the Renaissance and the 19th century to contemporary new media. Bredekamp is a member of several academic academies as well as the Order Pour le mérite.

Retirement: Heike Heyer says goodbye after almost 40 years at the HU

After almost 40 years of dedicated service to Humboldt-Universität, Heike Heyer, a member of the Department of Studies, is taking her well-deserved retirement at the end of the month. Heike Heyer has supported and assisted the faculties for well over 20 years in all study reform projects, the establishment of new degree programmes and the drafting and revision of study and examination regulations. She was also involved in the office of the Academic Senate's Commission for Study and Teaching until the end. The University would like to thank Heike Heyer for her commitment and wishes her all the best for her retirement. Caroline Kamm is the colleague who will succeed Heike Heyer.

Service anniversary: Angelika Wagner has been employed at HU for 40 years

Dr Angelika Wagner, an employee of the Department of Budget and Human Resources, is celebrating a special anniversary on 1 August: she has been working at Humboldt-Universität for 40 years. The University congratulates Dr Wagner on this special anniversary and thanks her for her many years of service.

New Official Bulletins

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