



## Welcome to the winter semester 2024/25: President Julia von Blumenthal welcomes the Humboldtians

HU President Julia von Blumenthal welcomes all Humboldtians to the winter semester 2024/25 on behalf of the entire Presidential Board. 'I hope you had time and leisure to relax and clear your heads during the lecture-free weeks,' she writes in her letter to the HU community. 'Together with you, we look forward to starting the new academic year with renewed vigour.' The past few months have been intensively analysed with regard to the protests and occupations. 'The safety of students and staff was the top priority in the preparations for the new semester.'

Various guidelines are intended to provide orientation in the event of possible disruptive actions. The President also emphasises the core values of Humboldt-Universität, such as freedom of research and teaching, open dialogue and respectful interaction with one another.

[Read the President's letter](#)

## Research & Teaching

### Panel discussion: (Re)breaks - The Humboldt-Universität after 1990

At the beginning of the 1989 winter semester, when the first semester students were ceremoniously enrolled in the Palace of the Republic, nobody could have guessed that the Berlin Wall would fall just a few weeks later. The political upheaval that followed characterised the entire university and affected all Humboldtians equally, regardless of whether they worked as laboratory staff, in administration, in technical services or as academics. How did HU students, staff and academics experience this period? Historian Gabriele Metzler discusses their experiences and the reorganisation of the HU with contemporary witnesses Hildegard Maria Nickel and Ulrich Miksch. The discussion '(Um-)Brüche - Die Humboldt-Universität nach 1990' will be historically categorised by Mitchell Ash, who is an expert on German university and academic history around 1989/90. The event will take place on 16 October from 6 to 8 pm in the Humboldt Lab.

[Find out more about the event and register](#)

### Workshop on October 8: Strengthening UK-Related Research and Teaching

The programme of the interdisciplinary workshop "UK-Related Research and Teaching at Humboldt-Universität", jointly organized by the President's Office and the Centre for British Studies, has been published. The workshop will take place on Tuesday, October 8, in the auditorium of the Grimm Centre at Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 3, 1-5pm. The aim of the event is to strengthen the visibility of UK-related research and teaching and to intensify interdisciplinary networking. Please register your participation by e-mail [vpfref@hu-berlin.de](mailto:vpfref@hu-berlin.de) as soon as possible.

[View the programme of the event](#)

### Agnes: Labelling courses with a sustainability focus

A lead project as part of the HU's climate protection concept provides for the curricular anchoring of climate protection and sustainability in the curriculum. Starting in the winter semester 2024/2025, courses relating to the ecological, social or economic dimension of sustainability will now be systematically recorded for the first time. This will make the courses more visible to interested students and they can be selected as specialisation modules for the Studium Oecologicum. Around 30 courses are currently already labelled.

[View courses related to sustainability](#)

### Save-the-Date: Adlershof Research Forum on 11 November & Call for Posters

PhD students and postdocs have the opportunity to present their research work to a broad public, receive feedback and make new contacts at the Adlershof Research Forum (AFF) on 11 November. The most convincing poster will also be honoured with a prize of 500 euros. The AFF is the grand finale of Berlin Science Week on the Adlershof campus and offers exclusive insights into the highlights of Adlershof research. The forum is organised by Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the research network IGAFa e. V. and WISTA Management GmbH. Posters can be registered until 14 October.

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

### Booksprint: Event on the topic of 'Making Research'

In recent years, libraries and archives have increasingly developed departments that specialise in digital collections, methods and their communication to researchers and users. In order to discuss and document current developments, the 'Digital Humanities' competence workshop of the HU University Library is organising the booksprint 'Making Research. Digital Humanities specialist departments, labs, makerspaces, workshops and competence centres at academic libraries and other research institutions'. Interested parties are invited to contribute to the collection and share their knowledge.

[Find out more about Booksprint at the University Library](#)

### Reminder: Apply now for Open Humboldt Freiräume

The Open Humboldt Freiräume funding programme is entering its next funding round. Until 11 October, professors and academic staff with a teaching load can apply for teaching leave for one semester for projects on knowledge exchange with society. In a short video, funding recipients and practice partners talk about their experiences with this programme.

[Find out more and watch the video](#)

### KOSMOS lecture: focus on agroecology on 9 October

Prof Philippe Baret from the Université de Louvain will give the next KOSMOS lecture. In his lecture 'From policies to practices. An agroecological approach to social change', he will show how agroecology can help to reshape agriculture and what role changing eating habits and progressive environmental policies play in this. The event will take place on 9 October from 6 to 7:30 pm in the Senate Hall of the main building, Unter den Linden 6, and will be held in English.

[Find out more about the KOSMOS reading at](#)

## Administration & Service

### Annual financial statements: deadlines and deadlines must be met

According to the University Agreement, Humboldt-Universität is obliged to submit its annual accounts for 2024 by 30 April 2025 at the latest. In order for this to succeed, it is imperative that all dates and deadlines for the annual financial statements are strictly adhered to. The Budget and Human Resources department would also like to point out that the accounting department is repeatedly presented with incorrectly executed transfers and capital offsets that do not comply with the applicable regulations. These transactions then have to be sent back for revision, resulting in unnecessary delays.

[View year-end closing dates](#)

### Daycare strike: How parents can organise their work

Even after the state labour court banned the indefinite strike in the state-owned daycare centres, the industrial action is not off the table. The trade union Verdi has lodged an appeal. In view of the continued possibility of a work stoppage in Berlin's daycare centres, the university management is providing information on regulations that will apply from the start of the strike until the end of the lecture period for this winter semester. Supervisors and employees can make different arrangements regarding availability and actual working hours on strike days if this makes it easier to reconcile working from home with childcare obligations.

[Read regulations for childcare strikes](#)

### Picture gallery: This was the kick-off for the 'New website' project

Last Friday, the 'New Website' project was officially presented to the university public for the first time. HU President Julia von Blumenthal welcomed the colleagues and encouraged those present to get involved in the project. After introductions to the project, the 60 participants got down to work. As part of a 'World Café', everyone had the opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas on focus topics for two hours.

[View image gallery](#)

### Get involved: Tips and tricks for a climate-friendly workplace

There are many resource guzzlers in everyday working life that have an unnecessary impact on the environment and cause additional costs. A list of 'Tips and tricks for a climate-friendly workplace at HU' has now been published and offers numerous practical suggestions on how Humboldtians can make their everyday working life more climate-friendly and thus reduce the university's ecological footprint. Humboldt-Universität aims to be climate-neutral by 2030 and must therefore reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to net zero.

[Go to the tips list](#)

### Digitalisation of business trips: Access via Employee Self Service

From next year, business trips at HU will only be processed digitally: via the new SAP FI-TV travel management system. The entire application and accounting process has been restructured and made more direct and efficient. Employees will be able to access the travel management system via the Employee Self Service platform, which is already familiar for downloading payslips. Until then, the 'humboldt together' project team, together with the 'Special Personnel Matters' unit of the Budget and Human Resources department, still has some work to do.

[Read more about travel management](#)

### Science communication: counselling in the event of digital violence

In recent years, the tone towards scientists and scientific institutions has become increasingly harsh, especially on social media. Scientists or science communicators who are affected by (digital) attacks, defamation and threats in science communication can get help from 'Scicomm-Support'. The free telephone counselling service is available daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., 365 days a year. The service is free of charge. Scicomm Support is a joint initiative of the Federal Association of University Communication and 'Wissenschaft im Dialog'.

[Find out more about Scicomm support](#)

### Invitation: Workshops on diversity-competent leadership

Until the end of the year, further training courses will be held on the topic of 'Fundamentals of Diversity Competence', which are primarily aimed at people with management responsibility at HU. The workshops will take place in Adlershof and Mitte, in presence and digitally, in German or English. The comprehensive programme is designed to make it easy for all interested parties to participate. The Executive Committee has already jointly completed a workshop on diversity-competent leadership. The members of the Executive Committee report on their impressions on the intranet.

[What the Executive Committee says about the workshops](#)

### Festival of Lights: The main building in a blaze of light

In October, Berlin will once again shine colourfully in the evening; the Festival of Lights will take place from 4 to 13 October, in which Humboldt-Universität traditionally also takes part. Over the course of ten nights, almost 50 Berlin landmarks will shine in bright colours, including the Main Building and the Faculty of Law at HU.

## Berlin University Alliance

### Open Science Ambassadors: researchers are committed to open science

The BUA was looking for ambassadors for open science - and found them. 23 researchers from eight faculties and one Cluster of Excellence of all four partners have started their work as Open Science Ambassadors with a kick-off on 23 September. Six of them are members of Humboldt-Universität. In the future, they will work to promote the idea of open science in their working groups, laboratories and faculties, implement it in everyday research and advise their colleagues. The BUA's Centre for Open and Responsible Research (CORe) supports the ambassadors with funding for training, further education events and other activities.

[Find out more about the Open Science Ambassadors](#)

[Subscribe to the monthly BUA newsletter with news, dates and interesting facts](#)

### ProFil programme: Support on the path to a professorship

The application phase for the 18th round of the ProFil programme starts on 10 October. The programme is aimed at highly qualified female scientists who are aiming for a professorship. For one year, they will receive targeted support on their career path through mentoring, seminars and strategic networking. Information events on 17 and 18 October (English) and 21 and 22 October (German) will provide information about the programme and the application and selection process. Applications can be submitted until 15 November 2024.

[Find out more about the ProFIL programme](#)

## Personalia

### LKRP: Julia von Blumenthal new chair of the state conference

The Landeskonferenz der Rektor\*innen und Präsident\*innen der Berliner Hochschulen (LKRP) has elected HU President Prof. Julia von Blumenthal as Chairwoman for the term of office beginning on 1 October. Dr Julia Neuhaus, President of the Berlin University of Applied Sciences, and Prof Dr Norbert Palz, President of the Berlin University of the Arts, were elected Deputy Chairpersons of the LKRP. The term of office of the Board of Directors is generally two years.

[Further information on the LKRP](#)

## New Official Bulletins

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



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