



## Study and teaching: AI programmes and projects at HU

The European 'AI act' has been in force since 2 February. The new AI regulation obliges universities across Europe to teach staff and students skills for the responsible use of artificial intelligence. How is Humboldt-Universität prepared for this in terms of teaching and learning? In this interview, computer scientist Prof Dr Niels Pinkwart, Vice President for Academic Affairs, provides insights into AI practice and the HU's diverse offerings in this area, describes the opportunities and risks of using AI in the university context and explains why the principles of good scientific practice continue to play an important role.

[Read Interview with Niels Pinkwart](#)

## In the Focus

### On the occupation of the Emil Fischer Lecture Hall

On April 16, the Emil Fischer Lecture Hall at HU was occupied and significantly damaged. The occupiers tore out benches, smeared walls with anti-Israel slogans, and barricaded the building. The university ordered the police to evacuate the building. The property damage is estimated at €60,000 to €100,000. Criminal charges have been filed. The lecture hall remains closed until further notice. Classes have had to be postponed.

[Read more about the occupation](#)

## Administration & Service

### New service agreement: Important changes to job advertisements and appointments

On 1 May, the new 'Service Agreement on Job Advertisements and Appointments' comes into force at Humboldt-Universität. Unlike before, there is now a service agreement for all employment groups, including student employees. The principle remains that every job must be advertised - however, the exceptions are regulated differently than before. Another new aspect is that in future at least two people will take part in selection interviews in addition to the applicant.

[Read more about the new rules for job advertisements and regulations on the application and selection process](#)

### New website: From workshops to application examples

The reorganisation of the HU website is making great strides. The members of the project team are currently working intensively on the content concept for the new central pages. The open conception workshops last autumn, in which the use of the website was discussed, provided important impulses for the redesign of the website. Numerous participants contributed their experiences, wishes and challenges. You can read about the results of the 'Personas' workshops and how the project is progressing in the project blog.

[Find out more about current developments in the website project](#)

### Elections in the summer semester: have your say on 17 June

Committee elections will take place at Humboldt-Universität on 17 June. The Central Election Board has announced the following elections: Election of the committee for the election of the full-time women's and equal opportunities officers and their deputies, the by-election to the Council for the status groups of university lecturers and employees in technology, service and administration as well as the election to the Council of the Central Institute 'Hermann von Helmholtz Centre for Cultural Technology'. Nominations can be submitted until 13 May, 3 pm.

[Further information on the elections can be found](#)

### New: Procedure for procurements over 10,000 euros

The Procurement Unit of the Technical Department provides information on the course of business for procurements over 10,000 euros (net). In order to ensure that procurement is carried out swiftly and in compliance with public procurement law, the department requests that certain business processes are observed, which can be viewed on the intranet.

[Find out more about the procurement process](#)

### Take part: Survey on sexualised discrimination and violence at the HU

As part of an HU Master's thesis in Gender Studies, we are investigating how employees of Humboldt-Universität perceive sexualised discrimination and violence in their everyday work. Participation in the survey takes about 20 minutes and is anonymous.

[Go to the survey](#)

### New: Apply for 'HU Office Management' by 23 May

The HU's Continuing Professional Development has launched a new programme to train administrative managers. The multi-module course is aimed at new employees and career changers working in secretariats, administrative assistance areas of the faculties and administrative areas of the Central University Administration. Participants are taught in-depth knowledge and skills in various areas of law and the practice of administrative action, which they need to properly fulfil their work tasks. In addition, in-depth insights into sub-processes and core processes of the university, in particular the central university administration, are presented. The course starts in September. Applications are possible until 23 May.

Please send applications to [christine.alpermann@uv.hu-berlin.de](mailto:christine.alpermann@uv.hu-berlin.de)

[Find out more about the HU Office Management Programme](#)

### Register now: Workshop series for better cooperation

On 15 May, the HU's Advice Centre 'Studying with Disabilities' will launch the four-part workshop series 'INCom - Sensitisation Workshops for Inclusive Coexistence'. In this series, participants will receive valuable insights and practical impulses for a respectful and conscious approach to the topics of cancer, hearing loss, autism/neurodiversity and ADHD from experts in their own field.

[Find out more and register for events](#)

### Making music: Two orchestras and are still looking for members

The Music Department at HU is still looking for committed musicians. In particular, violas, double basses, a trumpet, a tuba, a timpani, a percussionist and a harp are still in demand. The HU Symphony Orchestra's programme includes S. Rachmaninov's 'Isle of the Dead' and G. Mahler's 'Symphony No. 1'. Humboldt's Student Philharmonic Orchestra will perform 'La vida breve' by M. de Falla together with the Philharmonic Choir as a staged opera project.

[Find more information about music at the HU](#)

### Employee Self Service: digital retrieval of salary documents

Since January 2023, employees of Humboldt-Universität have been able to retrieve salary statements, social security registration certificates and income tax statements for previous calendar years via the Employee Self Service (ESS). It is not possible to retrieve documents in the ESS for periods prior to 1 January 2023.

[Read more about ESS](#)

## Research & Teaching

### AI expertise for teachers: European 'Teacher Academy' starts at the HU

With the new project 'AI2PI - From Artificial Intelligence to Pedagogical Innovation', the HU and six European partner universities are focussing on future-oriented teacher training. The aim is to strengthen AI literacy as a key competence for schools and teaching. 'We prevailed in a highly competitive, Europe-wide process. Out of 117 applications, only twelve Teacher Academies were selected,' says project manager Prof Dr Ulrike Stadler-Altmann from the Institute of Educational Sciences. With around 1.5 million euros in funding, the consortium is developing a further education programme that imparts AI knowledge tailored to school practice. Teachers, students and schools are actively involved from the outset. The kick-off events of the 'AI2PI - Teacher Academy' will take place at the HU from 5 to 7 May.

[Find out more about the project](#)

### Caroline von Humboldt Professorship: Call for applications extended until 18 May

The Caroline von Humboldt Professorship 2026 will be awarded in autumn 2025. The aim of the award is to make outstanding female professors at HU even more visible and to support their work. The professorship is usually associated with a one-year financial grant of 80,000 euros, which can be used flexibly as support for the further career, in particular as start-up funding for a research project. Proposals from all disciplines are considered. Nominations for the professorship can be made by the deans, institute directors and other members of Humboldt-Universität. The application deadline has been extended until 18 May.

[Learn more about the call for applications](#)

### Humboldt Award 2025: Nominate students and early career researchers

Students and junior researchers can once again be nominated for the Humboldt Award for outstanding work from the past year until 1 July. Only the deans of the HU are authorised to nominate. Only one nomination per category (Bachelor's thesis, Master's thesis, dissertation) will be accepted per institute or monofaculty. Self-nominations are possible for the Innovation Award for the best 'Research to Innovation' qualification work. The award is endowed with 750 euros for Bachelor's theses, 1500 euros for Master's theses, 3000 euros for dissertations, 2000 euros for the special award on Judaism and anti-Semitism (Master's thesis and dissertation) and 1000 euros for the Innovation Award.

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

### Open Access Award: Apply by 1 July

The Humboldt-Universität's Open Access Award honours outstanding and exceptional achievements by members of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in the field of Open Access, the free access to research results. With this annual award, the University Library aims to make the Open Access activities of researchers and publishers at Humboldt-Universität more visible, to honour them and to establish links for future plans and projects. It can be awarded to both individuals and groups. The prize is endowed with 5,000 euros. The application deadline is 1 July.

[Find out more about the Open Access Prize](#)

### Tiburtius Award: Nominate doctoral candidates by 15 May

The Landeskonferenz der Rektor\*innen und Präsident\*innen der Berliner Hochschulen (LKR) annually awards three prizes and three additional recognition prizes to doctoral students at Berlin's universities for outstanding dissertations and three prizes to graduates of Berlin's universities of applied sciences for outstanding master's theses. Professors at Berlin's universities are invited to nominate theses. The prizes for dissertations are endowed with 4,000 euros, 2,500 euros and 1,500 euros, the recognition prizes with 500 euros each. Proposals must be submitted via the application portal of the Dahlem Research School, Freie Universität Berlin, by 15 May.

[Find out more about the Tiburtius Prize and nominate](#)

### KOSMOS lecture: Biodiversity and culture in Japan on 22 May

In her KOSMOS lecture, Dr Bixia Chen will shed light on the close connection between biodiversity and culture in Okinawa, Japan. She will show how landscapes, through the application of fengshui principles and the preservation of sacred forests, contribute equally to protecting people from the forces of nature and to protecting the environment. The lecture entitled 'Biodiversity and Culture: Unravelling the Symbiosis between Nature and Human Heritage' will take place on 22 May from 6 to 7:30 pm in the Senate Hall of the HU. The lecture will be held in English.

[Learn more about the Kosmos lecture](#)

### Summer semester 2025: Lecture series at the HU

In the summer semester 2025, numerous public lecture series will once again be offered at the HU. The programme includes topics such as 'Beziehungsweise Familie', 'Museen im Wandel', 'Der Grüne Faden. Ringvorlesung des Nachhaltigkeitsbüros der HU' and others. Some of the lectures will be held in English. Some lectures can also be attended online. Admission is free.

[Lecture series of the summer semester](#)

### Dance Artist in Residence: Moving science

Choreographer and artistic researcher Irina Demina (Scarab Lab) is currently a guest artist at the Hermann von Helmholtz Centre for Cultural Techniques (ZfK). In this interview, Demina explains how body-based methods can be used to increase participation in science. Together with the 'Knowledge Exchange with Society' competence centre, she is currently testing new formats for participation. Researchers and multipliers are invited to visit the object lab at the ZfK and be inspired by participatory events and performative talks.

[Read the interview and find out more about what the ZfK has to offer](#)

### \_\_\_matter Festival 2025: Exhibition on co-design between humans and marine animals

In the re:future lab exhibition 'What if the Ocean Were a City?', designer Rasa Weber will be showing new approaches to symbiotic co-design between humans, corals and other aquatic animals from 13 to 16 May - in the exhibition space and in the water of the adjacent Spree. The exhibition and an accompanying programme will take place as part of the \_\_\_matter Festival 2025. The festival takes place as a science festival for material culture from April to October at twelve locations in Berlin. In exhibitions, workshops and discussions, members of the HU Cluster of Excellence 'Matters of Activity' radically question the understanding of materials as passive, ahistorical substances.

[Found further information on the exhibition can be found at finden](#)

## Berlin University Alliance

### Call for Proposals: Apply for research with 'X-Student Research Groups'

With the 'X-Student Research Groups' format, the Berlin University Alliance supports research projects in which early career researchers conduct joint research with students. Doctoral students and postdocs who would like to work with students on a sub-question of their research and gain experience in research group leadership can apply for the winter semester 2025/26. The projects are funded with a teaching assignment and material resources. The application deadline is 1 June. An information event on the call for X-Student Research Groups will take place digitally via Zoom on 7 May at 11 a.m.

[Find out more and take part in the Zoom event](#)

### Berlin Universities Publishing: No fees for readers

Researchers around the world are having to buy books and journals less and less often. More than 60 per cent of academic journal articles in Germany are already published open access, meaning they are available online at no cost to readers. In most cases, however, authors and editors pay publication fees, usually supported by their institutions and libraries. An alternative, where neither authors nor readers pay fees, is offered by the Berlin-based open access publisher Berlin Universities Publishing.

[Learn more about Berlin Universities Publishing](#)

## Personalia

### Prize: National Frontiers Planet Prize for Robert Arlinghaus

On Earth Day on 22 April, the 19 national champions of the Frontiers Planet Prize, a globally significant research award for sustainability, were announced. Robert Arlinghaus, Professor of Fisheries at the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) and Humboldt University, and his team were honoured for their groundbreaking science publication on the effectiveness of ecological enhancement of water bodies on fish stocks.

[Learn more about the award winner](#)

### Humboldt Foundation fellows: visiting researchers from Kenya and South Africa

Since April, Dr Phoebe Akinyi Oyugi from the University of Embu, Nairobi, Kenya, and Prof Dr Polo Moji from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, have been at HU for a research stay sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation. Dr Phoebe Akinyi Oyugi is researching criminal law and is being supervised by Prof Dr Florian Jülbberger from the Faculty of Law as part of her postdoctoral fellowship. Prof Dr Polo Moji will receive his scholarship for experienced researchers in the field of general and comparative literature and cultural studies. His host is Prof Dr Susanne Gehrmann from the Institute of Asian and African Studies.

### Obituary: The Slavist Anka Bergmann has passed away

The Institute of Slavic and Hungarian Studies mourns the loss of Prof. Dr Anka Bergmann, who passed away on 31 March after a serious illness. Anka Bergmann had been Professor of Didactics of Russian since 2007 and for many years was highly committed to the interests of the Institute, both in research and teaching as well as in academic self-administration, and enriched the life of the Institute. 'We mourn the loss of a colleague who gave Russian didactics as an academic discipline a clear profile that was recognised beyond the borders of Berlin. With Anka Bergmann, we have lost a committed colleague and bridge-builder who was active in education, school and association policy and was recognised beyond the boundaries of languages and subjects as well as internationally,' writes Prof. Dr Stephan Breidbach in the obituary for the colleague.

[Read obituary](#)

### New official bulletins

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



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