



__matter Festival 2025 in Berlin: A new look at materials

The __matter Festival 2025 is taking place in Berlin until 12 October and radically questions our view of materials as passive substances. In exhibitions, workshops and discussions, materials will be shown as a living part of our everyday lives, connecting human and non-human actors, times and places. The exploration of the impact of materials provides sustainable alternatives to energy-intensive and resource-exploiting technologies and offers new perspectives on the challenges of the man-made climate crisis. Highlights of the festival include the exhibitions 'What if the Ocean Were a City?' until 16 May in the re:future lab and 'Vessels. Infrastructures of Life' from 4 June in the Berlin Museum of Medical History at Charité about interdisciplinary vascular research between humans, animals and the city of Berlin (picture: corrosion preparation of the vessels of a liver). The festival is organised by the Cluster of Excellence "Matters of Activity. Image Space Material" (MoA), a leading centre for integrative materials research. The German Research Foundation will decide on a possible extension of the cluster on 22 May.

[Find out more about the 'Matters of Activity' festival and Cluster of Excellence.](#)

Research & Teaching

Themenwoche Lehre 2025: Sustainable teaching and learning

From 3 to 5 June, the Themenwoche Lehre will take place under the motto 'Sustainable teaching and learning'. Staff and students are cordially invited to take part in workshops, panel discussions, guided tours, science slams and many other events. The diverse programme provides information on how studying and teaching at the HU can contribute to a sustainable and liveable society and encourages a critical debate on the responsible use of knowledge, decisions and methods. The theme week starts with the Humboldt Day of Teaching, on which the prize for good sustainable teaching will also be awarded, and ends with the Circle U. Climate Day. This day will be organised simultaneously at all nine member universities of the Circle U. Alliance member universities.

[Read the full programme of the theme week](#)

Symposium: Discussion on business location on 14 May

Germany as a business location is under considerable pressure - for the third year in a row, the German economy may not grow. Under the title 'Navigating with foresight - Germany's path to a successful future', the Faculty of Economics at Humboldt-Universität is organising the 24th Economic Symposium. Renowned experts from science, business and politics will discuss current developments and possible solutions on 14 May from 10:00 am to 21:00.

[Find out more about the economic symposium](#)

'Antitext': Exhibition of the Kharkiv Literature Museum

The HU invites you to the opening of the graphic exhibition 'Antitext'. It addresses the effects of repressive Soviet policies on Ukrainian literature and culture in the 20th century as well as the consequences of the current Russian war of aggression. The exhibition will be opened on 20 May at 18:00 by President Prof. Dr Julia von Blumenthal and Prof. Susanne Frank, Director of the Institute for Slavic and Hungarian Studies. The director of the Kharkiv Literature Museum, Tetyana Pylypchuk, will give the opening lecture. 'Antitext' can be seen in the foyer of the main building, Unter den Linden 6, until 5 June.

The Circle U. AI Weeks 2025: Online and interdisciplinary

In May and June, Circle U. is hosting a series of online events that will shed light on key issues relating to artificial intelligence - including current developments, ecological impact, influence on research and connections to human behaviour. The series will kick off on 26 May from 9:30 to 11:00 with a presentation followed by a discussion entitled 'The energy cost of AI development: How high is the price?' on the question of how technological innovations can be reconciled with energy efficiency. This will be followed on 27 and 28 May by the symposium 'AI in Circle U.: Connecting Minds, Shaping the Future', which will bring together experts from the nine member universities to discuss the current challenges of modern AI systems.

[Find out more about the AI series and application deadlines](#)

Caroline von Humboldt Professorship: Call for applications until 18 May

The Caroline von Humboldt Professorship 2026 will be awarded this autumn. The award aims to make outstanding female professors at HU and their academic work even more visible and to support them. The professorship is associated with one-year financial support totalling 80,000 euros, which can be used flexibly as support for further careers, for example to provide start-up funding for a new research project. The deans, institute directors and other members of Humboldt-Universität are authorised to nominate candidates. Proposals from all disciplines will be considered. The application period ends on 18 May.

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

Klaus J. Bade Prize: Apply by 28 May

The Klaus J. Bade Prize for Migration and Integration Research will be awarded for the second time this autumn. The award, worth 7,500 euros, is aimed at researchers in the early stages of their careers. The prize is funded by the Hertie Foundation and awarded by the Berlin Institute for Empirical Integration and Migration Research (BIM) at the HU. The award ceremony will take place on 21 November in Berlin. The application deadline is 28 May.

[Find out more and apply.](#)

Call for Applications: Apply for Falling Walls Lab Adlershof

On 15 July, the Science and Technology Park Adlershof will once again be the venue for the Falling Walls Lab Berlin-Adlershof. The preliminary decision offers young scientists the opportunity to present research projects, ideas and initiatives with social relevance at this year's Falling Walls Science Summit as 'Breakthrough of the Year in the Emerging Talent Category'. The presentations will be held in presence in Berlin-Adlershof. Guests are welcome to attend. The event can also be watched via livestream. The application deadline is 3 June.

[Learn more about Falling Walls Lab](#)

[Apply for Falling Walls Lab](#)

Science needs freedom: Positions of scientists

Making academic freedom tangible is the aim of a joint project by Freie Universität, Humboldt-Universität and the SCRIPT Cluster of Excellence. Academics from both universities offer personal perspectives on current debates and the legal, political and ethical dimensions of academic freedom. With contributions by, among others, Prof Dr Christoph Möllers and Prof Dr Matthias Ruffert on university autonomy and Prof Dr Geert Keil and Dr Romy Jaster on the question of who is allowed to speak at the university.

[Read contributions from academics](#)

Administration & Service

Good academic practice: Berlin universities establish ombudsman's office

Together with 13 other universities in Berlin, Humboldt-Universität has founded a new ombudsman's office for good academic practice. The aim is to further strengthen cooperation between the universities in terms of academic integrity and to supplement existing structures at the universities. The office of the ombudsman will rotate every two years. For the first two years, it will be based at Freie Universität Berlin.

[Find out more about the ombudsman's office](#)

City Cycling 2025: Join the HU team now!

This year, HU is once again taking part in the City Cycling campaign, which is taking place in Berlin from 16 May to 5 June. With over 400 cyclists already registered and many new sub-teams, the HU team is very well positioned. However, more participants are always welcome. If you would like to take part, you can register for the main team or one of the many sub-teams.

[Find out more and cycle along](#)

50 years of the HU Choir: Anniversary concert on 11 June

The HU Choir is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a look back at its own history: at the anniversary concert, pieces from six centuries will be presented that have already been performed once in the past 50 years. This will create a colourful arc of sound and memory - with at least one work from each decade of the choir, from 1975 to the present day. The concert will take place on 11 June at 20:00 in the Konzerthaus Berlin (Great Hall). Tickets cost 15.80 to 36.50 euros and are available in advance.

[View the programme and buy tickets](#)

Save the date: Family day with sport, games and fun

On 5 July, the University Sports Department and the Family Equality Department invite you to a family day at the Schmöckwitz Water Sports Centre from 1 pm to 6 pm. Under the motto of sustainability, employees, students and their families can look forward to a colourful programme with craft activities, water sports, entertainment and relaxation on Lake Zeuthen.

[Read detailed information about the family day.](#)

Professional development: Apply for the 'HU Office Management' programme

The new 'HU Office Management' programme supports new employees in the non-technical service of general administration with a structured introduction to their areas of responsibility. It provides practical knowledge in relevant legal areas and enables an in-depth understanding of central university administration processes. The part-time course starts on 2 September 2025 and ends on 20 June 2026 (basic programme) or 8 December 2026 (advanced programme). Applications can be submitted until 23 May.

[Read more and register for the programme](#)

CMS: Self-service user certificates ready for use again

User certificates for signing and encrypting emails and for accessing web portals such as the Berlin state network or the CMS software portal have been available again since 12 May and can be obtained via self-service.

[Details, procedures and instructions.](#)

Looking for a flat? Offer for HU members

In cooperation with a private provider, the HU offers furnished two-room flats - ideal for HU students, doctoral candidates or researchers. The location is in the centre of Berlin-Mitte with good connections. The approximately 60 square metre flats have a living room and bedroom, a balcony and basic facilities including Wi-Fi. The rental period is from 4 August to 28 November. The monthly rent is 920 euros per flat or 460 euros per room. The buildings are not barrier-free. Pets are not permitted.

[Find out more about the rental offer](#)

Berlin University Alliance

Open Science in biology: Interview with Matthias König

Research according to Open Science standards offers many advantages. But why are these standards relatively slow to become established? Dr Matthias König is one of 23 BU/A Open Science Ambassadors who promote an open research culture at the institutions of the Berlin University Alliance. In this interview, he reports on how he and his team are implementing the topic of open science in biology.

[Read interview with Matthias König](#)

Call for proposals: Research with colleagues from UChicago

The University of Chicago supports interdisciplinary workshops in Berlin between researchers from all departments and disciplines at UChicago and the Berlin University Alliance. The goal is to organise joint workshops that will take place in Berlin between July 2025 and June 2026. The application must be submitted by UChicago Principal Investigators. However, BU/A researchers can approach existing or new contacts and initiate a collaboration. Grants are awarded in the amount of 5000-20000\$. The application deadline is 1 June.

[Learn more about the call](#)

Personalia

Dance-Your-PhD competition: HU doctoral student wins

For the 17th time this year, the renowned American science magazine Science has awarded the Dance Your PhD prizes and honoured videos that present complex dissertation topics through dance. The winner in the Social Sciences category is Manisha Biswas, who is currently doing her doctorate at the HU Graduate School Berlin School of Mind and Brain. In her video, she dances together with others on the topic of her doctoral thesis 'The Powerful Outcomes of Collective Synchrony'. She investigates how movements that take place in sync with others contribute to identity formation and how collective movements can lead to individuals perceiving themselves differently.

[Learn more about competition](#)

Congratulations: Henry Händler and Ron Peter celebrate their service anniversaries

Technical Department employees Henry Händler and Ron Peter have been working at Humboldt-Universität for exactly 40 years. The university would like to congratulate them on this special anniversary and express its gratitude for their many years of dedicated service.

New official bulletins

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