



## Anniversary: The Institute for Quality Development in Education celebrates its 20th anniversary

The Institute for Quality Development in Education (IQB), an affiliated institute of the HU, celebrated its 20th anniversary on 6 December. The IQB was founded in 2004 by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK). The aim was to develop nationwide educational standards and to monitor and evaluate their implementation. The foundation of the institute was a reaction to the so-called 'PISA shock' at the turn of the millennium and Germany's unsatisfactory results in international comparison. In this interview, Dr Lars Hoffmann, a member of the IQB's scientific management team, talks about the 'Stars' project, innovations in the VERA test and other current developments at the IQB.

[Read the interview](#)

## Science & Teaching

### Call for Contributions: 'Research Lounge' on 27 January on Brazil/Latin America

Humboldt-Universität invites you to network internally with the 'Research Lounge' series of events. The next event will take place on 23 January 2025, 2 to 5 p.m. in room 2070A (main building), this time with a regional focus on Brazil/Latin America. Anyone interested in researching the regional focus on Latin America or cooperating with the Universidade de São Paulo (USP) and/or other institutions in Brazil can submit an abstract by 6 January 2025.

[Information on the call and the event](#)

### Future Teaching Workshop 2025: 'Change of perspective - workshop for a lively feedback culture'r"

The Vice President for Studies and Teaching, Prof. Dr. Niels Pinkwart, invites you to participate in the Future Workshop Teaching 2025, which will take place on 27 January 2025 from 1 to 5 pm in the Senate Hall of the HU. The Future Teaching Workshop is an annual format that continues the dialogue on good teaching and focuses on the continuous development of teaching and studies. In the spirit of the workshop character, this year's focus is on feedback processes at the HU. The format sees itself as a think tank in which the topic is considered and worked on from different perspectives: from feedback in courses that promotes learning to dealing with teaching evaluations at institutes and sustainably effective participation processes at the HU. The event offers space for exchange, idea development and the joint design of teaching at HU.

[More information about the Future Workshop Teaching 2025](#)

### Record success: 1.6 million euros in Erasmus funding for global cooperation projects

Humboldt-Universität achieved its best result to date in the Erasmus call for non-European exchanges in 2024. A new focus was placed on the Global South and the prioritisation of networks on sustainability topics. As part of Erasmus+ 2024, HU raised a record sum of 1.6 million euros for worldwide university cooperation. For the funding period from August 2024 to July 2027, all of HU's applications were approved without exception.

[Read message](#)

### Circle U.: Funding for projects on equality, diversity and inclusion

The Circle U. European University Alliance announces its call for proposals for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) initiatives. The call invites students, administrators and researchers from Circle U. member institutions to develop innovative projects that promote equality, diversity and inclusion in their academic environment. A total of 12,000 euros is available per call, with individual projects able to apply for up to 4,000 euros. This call will be re-issued for 2026 and 2027, with a maximum funding period of one year per project. The deadline for submitting applications is 28 February.

[Learn more about the call](#)

### Philipp Schwartz Initiative: Sponsorship for vulnerable and refugee researchers

For the 15th time, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has launched the Philipp Schwartz Initiative to sponsor researchers at risk and refugees. With the help of the programme, researchers who are exposed to considerable danger in their countries of origin can continue their work at German universities and research institutions. The HU once again has the opportunity to nominate researchers at risk for a 24-month fellowship. The application deadline is 19 January 2025.

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

### Cooperation: Berlin-Cottbus innovation corridor takes shape

In order to strengthen the innovation potential of the Berlin-Brandenburg metropolitan region and tackle scientific challenges together, the HU has developed ideas and project approaches together with the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg (BTU). This opens up a wide range of opportunities for science and industry in the so-called innovation and sustainability corridor from Berlin via Adlershof to Cottbus. After the first workshop of the Berlin-Cottbus innovation corridor took place two years ago, four joint research projects from the participating universities were honoured at a second event in November. A new Memorandum of Understanding now sets out the framework conditions for closer cooperation in the areas of research, teaching and transfer.

[Read the report on the innovation corridor](#)

### Call for applications: Teaching assignments from the Berlin Equal Opportunities Programme (BCP)

For the summer semester 2025 and the winter semester 2025/2026, teaching positions are being advertised as part of the Berlin Programme for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for Women in Research and Teaching. Funding is available for young female academics who have had little opportunity to gain teaching experience due to their professional biography. The deadline for applications is 2 January 2025.

[Read the information on the intranet](#)

### Call for proposals: Gender Equality Fund 2025/26

Applications can once again be submitted for funding from the Gender Equality Fund for measures to overcome structural barriers to gender equality, increase the proportion of women at all qualification levels, embed gender research or incorporate gender aspects into teaching. Applications can be submitted until 2 January 2025. These activities should begin on 1 January 2026.

[Overview of the application process on the intranet](#)

## Administration & Service

### UB2035 project: The University Library develops a new strategy

Since June, the University Library has been working on a one-year strategy project 'UB2035' to realign itself in order to meet the requirements of the dynamically changing academic landscape. The project is focussing on the key topics of open science, expanding research-related services, digital transformation and sustainability. Initially, activities will focus on the modernisation of the library's core tasks and a consistent orientation towards the changing needs and expectations of users.

[Find out more about the UB2035 project](#)

### Review board election 2027: Review subject structure now

The next election of the review boards of the German Research Foundation (DFG) is not due until autumn 2027. However, the review boards of the DFG review board for 2028 to 2032 should be reviewed now. To this end, the election office for the DFG review board election at HU is asking faculties and institutes to review whether the current structures are appropriate from the perspective of their faculties or institutes with regard to the review board election for the period 2028 to 2032. Proposals for changes can be submitted until 27 January 2025.

[Find out more about the review board structure](#)

### Committee elections in January: election proposals for AS/Council have been finalised

Committee elections will take place at Humboldt-Universität on 14 January 2025, including elections to the Academic Senate/Council. The nominations for the election to the AS/Council have been finalised and can be viewed. Postal voting documents can be requested in writing or by email from the relevant local election committee via the personal email account provided by the university until 18 December, 3 pm.

[View election proposals](#)

### Sustainability: give the gift of plant sponsorship

For all those who are still looking for an original and sustainable Christmas present, here is a special idea: a plant sponsorship in the Späth Arboretum. The sponsors receive a certificate and a personalised plaque on the plant once a certain amount has been donated. Since the start of the campaign in July, over 60 plant sponsorships have already been taken on and almost 10,000 euros have been donated to support the arboretum. The results of the fundraising campaign are aimed at preserving the HU's botanical garden, which is over 140 years old, with its unique historical collection of trees and shrubs.

[Learn more about plant sponsorships](#)

### End of the year 2024: special things to read, watch and listen to

The editors of the Humboldt Magazine want to round off the last few weeks of the year with a selection of articles by Humboldtians: For example, with thought-provoking lines from Humboldt poet Lila Sivia, scientific observations and tips on Christmas customs, winter recipes and, of course, the Executive Board's review of the year. The articles will be published in the HUMBOLDT magazine on Intranet until Christmas.

[View end-of-year articles](#)

### Order now: The New Year's cards 2025 via print on demand

The Department of Communication, Marketing and Event Management and the in-house print shop are offering the printing of New Year's cards for all HU institutions until 18 December. This year there are two different motifs to choose from.

[Order New Year's cards](#)

### Magic of lights: atmospheric evening with music on 11 December

Humboldt's Magic of Lights in the Senate Hall: All Humboldtians and their guests are invited to the Main Building on 11 December for an atmospheric afternoon and evening full of music and movement. Between 6 and 7 pm, the HU Choir and the HU Chamber Choir will present a musical mix of international Christmas music and traditional chorales from the Renaissance to listen to and sing along to. From 4 to 6 p.m., the instructors from HU Sport will be offering a cha-cha-cha beginners' course. No previous knowledge is required to learn this Latin American dance, but you do need comfortable shoes. The Family Justice Department will be looking after young visitors with a Christmas craft programme and a cake buffet will provide refreshments.

### Updated: New application forms for HU accounts

The Computer and Media Service (CMS) has restructured the application processes for HU accounts in consultation with the Data Protection Department and the Head of Education. Not only were the application forms revised, but previously informal work processes were also documented in writing. In addition, the guidelines for assigning e-mail addresses (alias policy) were updated.

[Find new forms and alias policy](#)

### CMS: Mobile podcast studio available to borrow from the video and audio service

Since the winter semester 2024/2025, the Video and Audio Service of the Computer and Media Service (CMS) has been providing a mobile podcast studio for loan to HU staff and students. If required, a small studio room in the Grimm Centre can also be booked via the video service. The loan of this technology is intended exclusively for projects related to teaching, research, studies or project work at the university; private or commercial use is excluded. A technical introduction to the work steps and agreements on the duration of the loan, etc. are obligatory.

[Learn more about Podcast Studio](#)

### Mobility: Price adjustment for the Deutschlandticket job and company ticket

The transport ministers of the federal states have approved the first nationwide price adjustment for the Deutschlandticket. From January, HU employees will now pay 40.10 euros for the Deutschlandticket Job instead of the previous 31.55 euros. The ticket prices of transport companies will also increase from 2025. However, HU employees will continue to benefit from a tax-free subsidy of 15 euros.

[Find out more about job ticket models for HU employees](#)

### Picture gallery: Reception for newly appointed professors in the Animal Anatomy Theatre

On 27 November, the HU welcomed its newly appointed professors at a reception in the Tieranatomisches Theater. The event offered the newly appointed members of the university the opportunity to get to know the HU Executive Board personally and to network with colleagues from many other areas. A guided tour of the research and exhibition project 'Parrot Terristories' was also offered as part of the welcome reception. The exhibition on spaces where grey parrots and humans meet will run until 29 March 2025.

[View picture gallery](#)

## Berlin University Alliance

### The BUA and me: Manuela Bojadžijev researches solidarity

Manuela Bojadžijev is Professor of Migration in Global Perspective at the Institute for European Ethnology and the Berlin Institute for Empirical Integration and Migration Research (BIM). In the Berlin University Alliance (BUA)-funded research group 'Transforming Solidarities. Practices and Infrastructures in the Migration Society' funded by the Berlin University Alliance (BUA), she investigates how solidarity is negotiated, enabled or prevented in the fields of labour, health and housing.

[Read the protocol about Manuela Bojadžijev](#)

[Learn more about #WirSindBUA](#)

### Virtual reality experience: Orpheus reimagined

HU researchers Dr Mats Küssner and Dr Christian Stein, in cooperation with the Shostakovich School of Music, invite you to a virtual reality concert experience, which will be scientifically accompanied for their research. The 'Orpheus reimagined' concert series enters the next round on 14 December. Anyone who would like to experience an excerpt from Gluck's opera 'Orpheus and Eurydice', an 18th century masterpiece, through VR glasses and in a completely new way is cordially invited to this concert experiment. Admission is free. This project is supported by the Berlin University Alliance in the Open Humboldt Freiräume programme of Humboldt-Universität.

[Go to registration](#)

## People

### Success: ERC Consolidator Grant for quantum physicist Tim Schröder

Prof Dr Tim Schröder from the Institute of Physics at HU and the Leibniz Institute for High Frequency Technology has been awarded a Consolidator Grant from the European Research Council (ERC) for his research in the field of quantum physics and quantum technology. The funding for the research project 'Multidimensional Hyperentangled Photon Graph States', HyperGraph for short, amounts to around 2.5 million euros over five years. The ERC grants are among the most important awards in European research funding and are awarded for outstanding scientific achievements.

[Find out more about the research project](#)

### Award: Tiburtius Prize for outstanding dissertations

Dr Martin Wagner and Dr Gustav Jakobsen were each awarded a recognition prize for their doctoral theses as part of the Tiburtius Prize. Martin Wagner's interdisciplinary thesis 'Collective Disciplining. The transformation of totalitarian rule after Stalin and Mao', Martin Wagner dealt with the question of how totalitarian tyranny can be overcome. Gustav Uhre Jakobsen analysed theoretical predictions for the movement of black holes in his dissertation 'Gravitational scattering of compact bodies from world line quantum field theory'.

[Find out more about the prizewinners and their work](#)



Photo: IQB

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