

# X-Student Research Groups

Research teams made up of junior researchers and students

Information Event: Call for Proposals Winter Semester 2024/25



# Agenda

1. Berlin University Alliance (BUA) and the Student Research Opportunities Program (StuROP<sup>x</sup>)
2. X-Student Research Groups
3. Roles and Responsibilities
4. Application
5. Selection procedure
6. Contact
7. Q&A

TOP 1  
Berlin University Alliance (BUA) and the  
Student Research Opportunities Program  
(StuROP<sup>x</sup>)

# Berlin University Alliance (BUA)

- Network of four partner institutions
  - Freie Universität
  - Humboldt-Universität
  - Technische Universität
  - Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- Funding within the framework of the Excellence Strategy of the German federal and state governments; initially for seven years
- Start of funding November 1, 2019



# Goals of the Berlin University Alliance

Objective

1

Focusing on Grand Challenges

Objective

2

Fostering Knowledge Exchange

Objective

3

Advancing Research Quality and Value

Objective

4

Promoting Talent

Objective

5

Sharing Resources

Cross-Cutting Themes

Diversity and Gender Equality

Teaching and Learning

Internationalization

# Cross-Cutting Theme: Teaching and Learning

- Addressing a concern of the previous Excellence Initiative: pure research funding from which students do not benefit
- Measure 1: Berlin University Alliance Joint Courses and Programs
  - BUA-Office for Teaching and Learning: administrative implementation of BUA teaching formats, modules and degree programs
  - E-Assessment Alliance: implementation of digital forms of examination; expansion of the portfolio
- Measure 2: Student Research Opportunities Program (StuROPx)

# StuROP<sup>x</sup>

## Student Research Opportunities Program (StuROP<sup>x</sup>)

Central program of the BUA for linking research and teaching

### StuROP<sup>x</sup>-Team

- Dr. Julia Rueß (program head)
- Dr. Nina Lorkowski (program manager)
- Johannes Trenkner (program assistant)
- Katarina Macova (Student assistant)

### X-Student Research Groups

- Research teams consisting of junior researchers and students
- Goal: To involve students in current research projects of the BUA partners and to enable them to participate in research during their studies

### X-Tutorials

- Research tutorials initiated and conducted by students; tutors conduct research with other students as a team on a topic of their interest
- Goal: To give students the freedom to work independently on their own research question



# TOP 2 X-Student Research Groups



# What is an X-Student Research Group?

- research-based learning courses, with connection to a current research project
- Project is announced in the course catalogue, ≤15 students can participate
- Duration usually one semester (extension for another semester is possible)
- Qualification program + regular meetings of the group leaders
- Option to present outcomes at the Berlin Conference for Student Research
- Preparation of a short final report

# X-Student Research Groups: Funding

- Teaching assignment (35 hrs.)
- Optional: material resources (up to 750 €)
- Preparation of a short final report
- Funding of up to 16 X-Student Research Groups per semester
- Administration of funds at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin: granting of the teaching assignment + administration of the material funds
- Implementation of the teaching assignment at the institution to which the project is institutionally affiliated

# X-Student Research Group as a course

## Interdisciplinary and cross-semester collaboration:

- BUA teaching: participation open to students of all collaborative partners.
- Up to 15 participants per project, in case of more interested students will be drawn by lots

## Participants receive credit points

- 6 LP
- Creditable in the free elective area/ABV/ÜwP, individual crediting possible on application in own study program

### Modulbeschreibung X-Student Research Groups 6 LP

| <b>Modul:</b> Forschungsprojekt mit Nachwuchsforschenden – X-Student Research Groups   |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Hochschule:</b> Partnerhochschulen der Berlin University Alliance: Charité, FU, HU, TU  |  |  |   |
| <b>Modulverantwortliche/r:</b> Dozentinnen und Dozenten des Moduls   |  |  |   |
| <b>Zugangsvoraussetzungen:</b> keine   |  |  |   |
| <b>Qualifikationsziele:</b> Studierende realisieren ein begrenztes Forschungsvorhaben, das an ein aktuell laufendes Forschungsprojekt angeknüpft ist, möglichst durch alle Phasen des Forschungsprozesses hindurch. Das kann beinhalten Forschungsfragen zu formulieren oder zu präzisieren, ein methodisches Vorgehen zu konzipieren, die Forschung umzusetzen und die Ergebnisse zusammenfassend zu dokumentieren. Sie haben ein Bewusstsein für herausfordernde Situationen im Forschungsprozess und können geeignete Lösungsansätze dafür entwickeln. Sie sind in der Lage allein oder in Kleingruppen Ziele für einen Arbeitsprozess zu definieren, Aufgaben entsprechend aufzuteilen und anderen Studierenden der Research Group Feedback zu geben. Sie haben die Fähigkeit, ihre Forschungsergebnisse wissenschaftlich und für externe Zielgruppen aufzubereiten und können ihren eigenen Lern- und Forschungsprozess kritisch reflektieren und bewerten. Sie haben ein Verständnis für die Abläufe des Forschungsprojektes, an dem sie beteiligt sind und für die Scientific Community, zu der sie für diesen begrenzten Zeitraum gehören. |  |  |   |
| <b>Inhalte:</b><br>Das Modul bietet die Möglichkeit, Teilfragen eines aktuell laufenden Forschungsprojekts eines Nachwuchsforschenden zu bearbeiten. Dabei werden die hierfür notwendigen inhaltlichen Grundlagen erarbeitet und ein geeignetes methodisches Vorgehen angewendet. Prozessbegleitend werden Methoden für Peer-Feedback sowie für die Reflexion von Lern- und Forschungsprozessen eingesetzt. In projektbezogenen und für die studentische Forschung geeigneten Formaten werden die Ergebnisse diskutiert und in einem wissenschaftlichen Format aufbereitet und präsentiert.  |  |  |   |
| Lehr- und Lernformen   | Präsenzstudium (Semesterwochenstunden = SWS) | Formen aktiver Teilnahme   | Arbeitsaufwand (Stunden)  |
| Seminar  | 2  | Kleingruppenarbeit, Diskussion   |   |
| Lehrforschungsprojekt  | 120 h  | Kleingruppenarbeit, Bearbeitung von Teilfragen eines aktuell laufenden Forschungsprojekts, Aufbereitung und Präsentation der Ergebnisse in einem wissenschaftlichen Format, Erstellung eines Reflexionsberichts  | Seminar:<br>Präsenzzeit<br>Vor- und Nachbereitung<br>30<br>30<br>Lehrforschungsprojekt:<br>Präsenzzeit<br>120 |
| <b>Leistungspunkte und Voraussetzung für deren Erteilung</b>   |  | Seminar: 2 LP<br>- 1 LP für die Teilnahme<br>- 1 LP für Vor- und Nachbereitung<br>Lehrforschungsprojekt: 4 LP<br>- 2 LP für die Planung und Durchführung des Projekts<br>- 1 LP für die Aufbereitung der Ergebnisse in mündlicher Form (z. B. Vortrag, Posterpräsentation), in schriftlicher Form (z. B. Ergebnisbericht, Essay) oder in multimodaler Form (z. B. Audio- oder Videomaterial, Objektpräsentationen oder Ausstellung). |   |

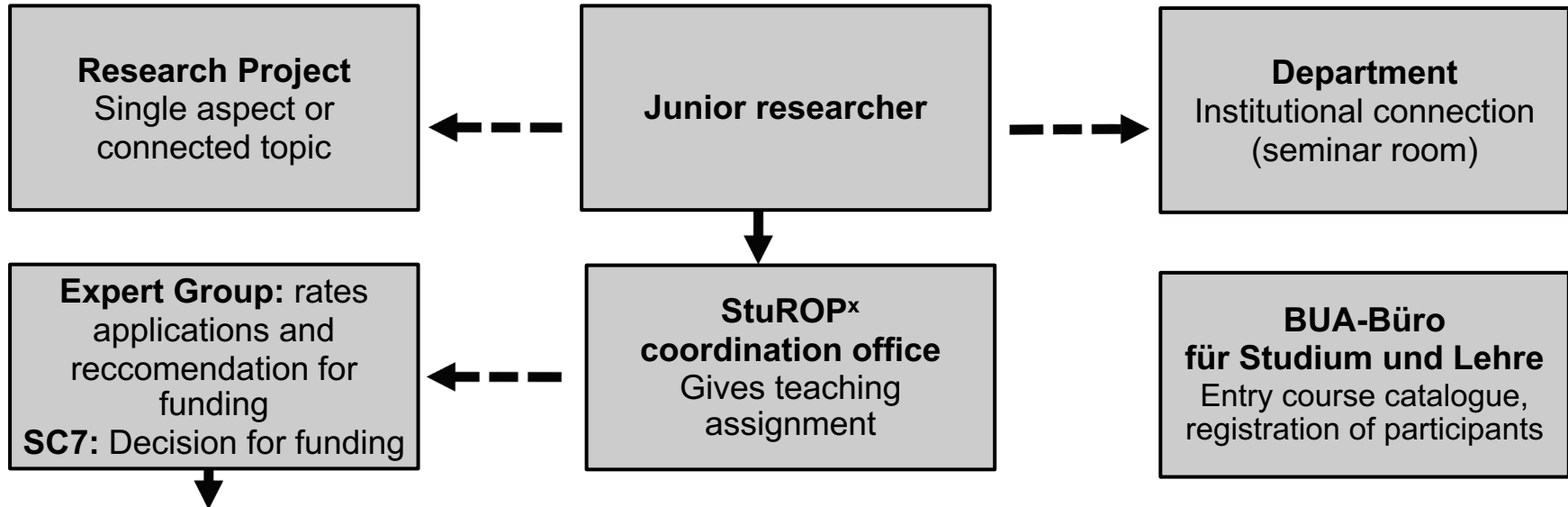
# Characteristics of research based learning

- Students go through an (almost) complete research process, work on their own questions, generate (for themselves new) scientific findings and prepare this for third parties.
- Phases of research-based learning correspond to the typical steps of a research process -> Consideration in the description of the work phases (=no classical seminar plan!)
- Research takes place together (or in small groups) in the course and not in individual work following the course (e.g. in the context of a term paper); students' results are finally brought together and the research process is reflected upon.

(Support for the conception is also provided by the workshops within the qualification program).

# TOP 3 Roles and Responsibilities

# From your research to an X-Student Research Group



## X-Student Research Group: 1 Semester

Preparation  
workshop

Start of courses

Regular  
meetings  
amongst  
teachers

Presentation of  
findings: e.g.:  
Berlin Conference  
for Student  
Research

Reflection of  
research  
process with  
students



# TOP 4 Application

# What does the complete application contain?

## 1. Application form (online)

- Applicant's details and institutional affiliation
- Project title of the research project to which the X-Student Research Group is to be connected

## 2. Project outline

- Max 3 pages, bibliography on another page (1!) if necessary.
- Includes:
  - introduction to the research question/topic and its relevance
  - timeline and short description of the (didactic) implementation of the working phases
  - assessment for which students the project is interesting or suitable
  - If applicable: potential cooperations with other (social) actors or institutions
- Please check: [https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/commitments/teaching-learning/stuop/research-groups/call-for-proposals/3-unterlagen/dt\\_info-on-project-outline\\_groups.pdf](https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/commitments/teaching-learning/stuop/research-groups/call-for-proposals/3-unterlagen/dt_info-on-project-outline_groups.pdf)



# What does the complete application contain?

## 3. Optional - Application for material or travel funds

- up to 750 €
- Important: necessity for research/project implementation
- you can use material funds e.g. for: moderation materials, entrance fees, printing costs, probands, software, consumables for the laboratory, guest lectures, conference fees for you and your students...
- It is not necessary to calculate requirements to the cent, but the estimate should be as realistic and appropriate as possible
- It is possible to apply for additional funds during the course of the project, which will be approved based on the remaining funds available.

## 4. Form: Proof of institutional affiliation

- Confirmation (signature) of a professor
- Institutional connection = responsible for the organizational implementation of the course, e.g. room booking, access to the learning platform, use of laboratory facilities, if applicable. Confirmed by professor / head of department / institute

# TOP 5 Selection procedure

# StuROPx-Expert group

- Expert panel for the review of the applications
- 40 members, equal number of members from the four collaborative partners, approximately equal gender representation, interdisciplinary
- professors, scientific staff, students
- Proposals are reviewed by experts from the same field (2x) and by experts from different fields (1x)!

# Criteria for the evaluation of applications

- (Formally) incomplete incomplete applications will not be considered!
- Notes on the project outline implicitly contain all rating criteria.

## 1. Quality of content

Precise question or topic for student research group, relevance, reference to your research, aspects that can be investigated by students, methodology, presentation of outcomes

## 2. Realization

Working phases, integration of students, work load

## 4. Description of roles

Reserch team!

5. Cooperation/  
contribution to  
the BUA

## 3. Participating students

disciplines,  
previous  
knowledge

# What is important to the reviewers?

- Clear research question or clear research topic
- Open-ended and participatory project (no classical seminar plans!)
- Original perspective or methodological approach
- Trans- or interdisciplinary approaches
- Interesting for students (topic/approach that does not exist in regular teaching)
- Realistic time schedule for research project
- Reasonable workload for students (approx. 180 hrs.)
- Proposals written well and understandable (also for non-specialists)
- No criterion but sensitivity to diversity and gender is positively perceived

Further Questions?

**Please check out the FAQs:** <https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/commitments/teaching-learning/stuop/research-groups/faq-groups/index.html>

Contact: [stuop@berlin-university-alliance.de](mailto:stuop@berlin-university-alliance.de)

Please submit your application until: Juni 2nd 2024

