X-Student Research Groups
Research teams made up of junior researchers and students

Information Event: Call for Proposals summer semester 2024
Agenda

1. Berlin University Alliance (BUA) and the Student Research Opportunities Program (StuROPx)
2. X-Student Research Groups
3. Roles and Responsibilities
4. Application
5. Selection procedure
6. Contact
TOP 1
Berlin University Alliance (BUA) and the Student Research Opportunities Program (StuROPx)
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 the criticism 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)
StuROP²

Student Research Opportunities Program (StuROP²)

Central program of the BUA for linking research and teaching

StuROP²-Team
• Dr. Julia Rueß (program head)
• Dr. Nina Lorkowski (program manager)
• 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 (can be extended if necessary)
- 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
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

**Research Project**
Single aspect or connected topic

**Expert Group:** rates applications and recommendation for funding
**SC7:** Decision for funding

**StuROP**
coordination office
Gives teaching assignment

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coordination office
Gives teaching assignment

**Department**
Institutional connection (seminar room)

**BUA-Büro**
für Studium und Lehre
Entry course catalogue, registration of participants

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**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/sturop/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

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

3. Participating students
   disciplines, previous knowledge

4. Description of roles
   Research team!

5. Cooperation/contribution to the BUA

- (Formally) incomplete applications will not be considered!
- Notes on the project outline implicitly contain all rating criteria.
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/sturop/research-groups/faq-groups/index.html

Contact: sturop@berlin-university-alliance.de

Please submit your application until: December 3rd 2023