



X-Student Research Groups: Research teams made up of  
junior researchers and students  
Information Event: Call for Proposals winter semester 2026/27

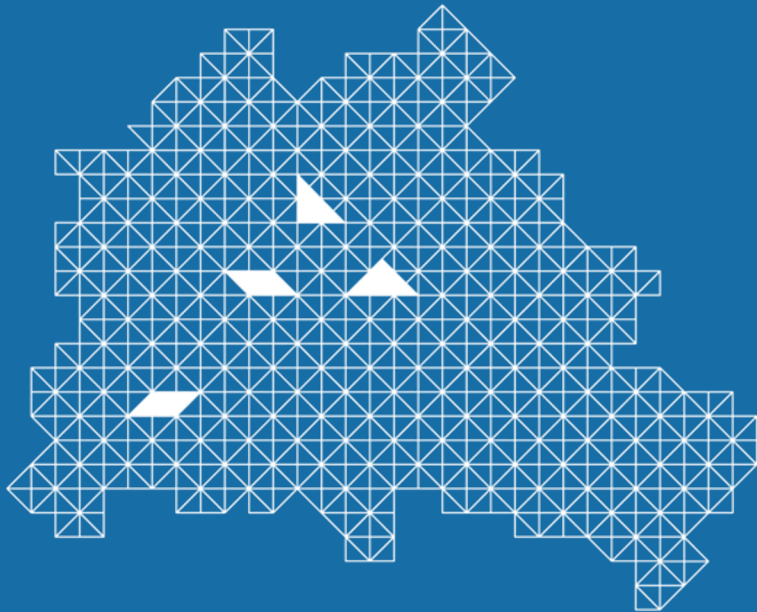
08.05.2026



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# Agenda



1. Berlin University Alliance (BUA) and the Student Research Opportunities Program (StuROP<sup>x</sup>)
2. What is an X-Student Research Group?
3. Application
4. Selection Procedure
5. Outlook and Schedule
6. Q&A



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Part 1

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



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# Berlin University Alliance (BUA)

- Alliance of four partner institutions
  - Freie Universität
  - Humboldt-Universität
  - Technische Universität
  - Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- Funded under the Excellence Strategy of the German federal and state governments (2019-2026)
- Next funding phase of the Berlin University Alliance starts in 2027

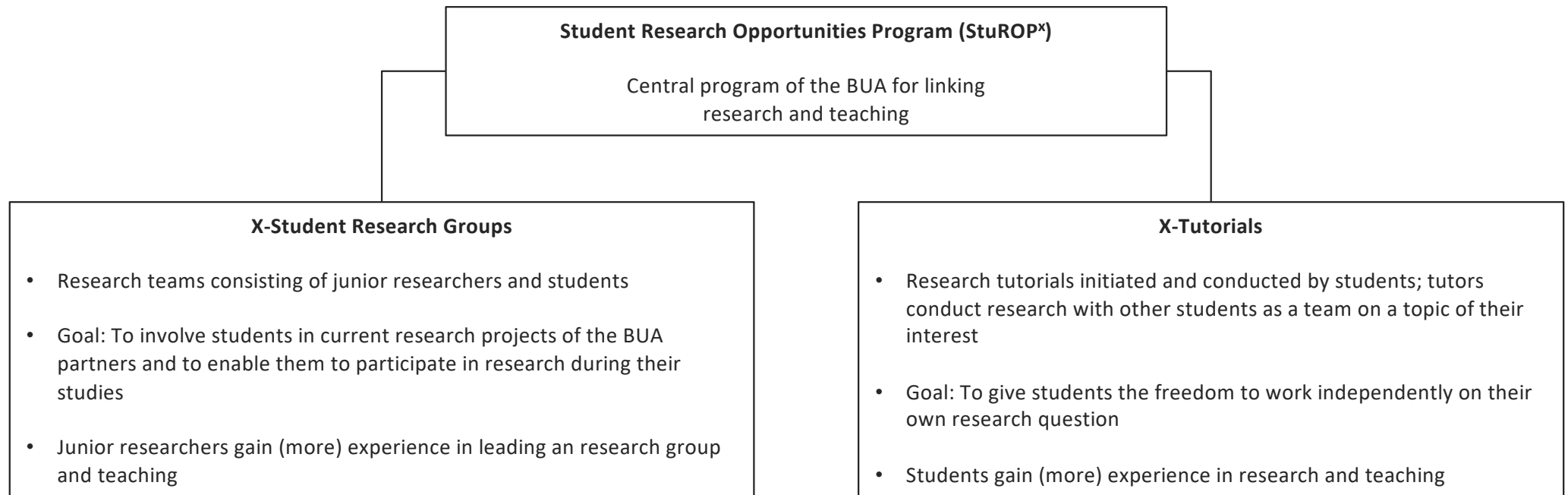


# Cross-Cutting Theme: Teaching and Learning

- 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 (StuROP<sup>x</sup>)



# StuROP<sup>x</sup>



Part 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 might be 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 Group „Active Perception“ lead by Pia Bideau, TU Berlin, Cc P. Bideau



# What is funded?

- Teaching assignment (35 hrs.)
- Optional: material resources (up to 750 €)
- 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:  
„KI in a Bucket of Water“ led by Dr. Manish Yadav, Cc by TU  
Berlin



# X-Student Research Groups as a course

## Interdisciplinary and cross-semester collaboration

- BUA teaching: participation open to students of the four partner institution.
- Up to 15 participants per project, in case of more interested students will be drawn by lot.

## 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> Das Modul bietet die Möglichkeit, Teilfragen eines aktuell laufenden Forschungsprojektes 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: Präsenzzeit Vor- und Nachbereitung 30 30 Lehrforschungsprojekt: Präsenzzeit 120
<b>Leistungspunkte und Voraussetzung für deren Erteilung</b>		Seminar: 2 LP - 1 LP für die Teilnahme - 1 LP für Vor- und Nachbereitung Lehrforschungsprojekt: 4 LP - 2 LP für die Planung und Durchführung des Projekts - 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).	

Berlin University Alliance 1

Gefördert im Rahmen der Exzellenzstrategie von Bund und Ländern

Cover module description for X-Student Research Groups



# X-Student Research Groups: Designed to foster Undergraduate Research Experience



Preparatory Workshop within the Framework of the StuROP<sup>x</sup>-Qualification Program

- Based on the concept of **Research based Learning**. Support for the conception is also provided by the workshops within the qualification program
- **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.
- **Research is performed together** (or in small groups) in the project and not in individual work following the project (e.g. in the context of a term paper following a seminar). In URE students' **results are finally brought together and the research process is reflected upon**.



# Need some Inspiration?

## Webpage: StuROPx-Contributions

- <https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/teaching-learning/stuop/contributions/index.html>
- Curated presentation of selected final outputs in four categories:
  - Academic contributions
  - Symposia, exhibitions, and events
  - Websites and print publications
  - Audio and video contributions

The screenshot shows the website for the Student Research Opportunities Program (StuROPx) at the Berlin University Alliance. The page is titled "StuROPx-Contributions: Entstandene Beiträge für die Wissenschaft und die allgemeine Öffentlichkeit". It features a navigation menu with "Über das StuROPx" and "Kontakt". The main content area includes a breadcrumb trail: "Startseite > Schwerpunkte > Teaching and Learning > Student Research Opportunities Program (StuROPx) > StuROPx-Contributions: Entstandene Beiträge für die Wissenschaft und die allgemeine Öffentlichkeit". Below the title, there is a paragraph explaining the program's goal to promote student research and increase its visibility. It mentions that the Berlin University Alliance has set a goal to support student research and increase its visibility. It also states that the Berlin Conference for Student Research presents the results of funded StuROPx projects in various formats, including scientific articles, conference papers, audio formats, exhibitions, and digital publications. A section titled "Auf dieser Seite finden Sie eine Auswahl von Beiträgen aus X-Tutorials und X-Student Research Groups." is followed by four categories of contributions, each with a representative image and a right-pointing arrow:

- Wissenschaftliche Beiträge (Image: Scientific papers)
- Symposien, Ausstellungen und Events (Image: People at a table)
- Websites und Printpublikationen (Image: Website screenshot)
- Audiobeiträge und Videoaufnahmen (Image: Building facade)

Part 3

# Application



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# 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

## Project outline

Max 3 pages, bibliography on another page (1!) if necessary. Please avoid any further appendix!

Including:

- 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 cooperation with other (social) actors or institutions
- Please check: [https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/teaching-learning/stuop/research-groups/call-for-proposals/3-unterlagen/en\\_info-on-project-outline\\_groups.pdf](https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/teaching-learning/stuop/research-groups/call-for-proposals/3-unterlagen/en_info-on-project-outline_groups.pdf)

# What does the complete application contain? (2)

## Optional: Application for material or travel resources

- Up to 750 €, prerequisite: necessity for research/project implementation,
- E.g. for moderation materials, entrance fees, printing costs, test person fees, software, consumables laboratory, guest lectures...). No detailed but realistic calculation required!
- It is possible to adjust this calculation during the project and you also might apply for additional funds during the course of the project.

## 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

**Applying for an X-Student Research Group**

**1 Name and signature of applicant**

Note: If the X-Student Research Group is applied for in tandem or as a team, the name and signature of the main applicant are sufficient.

last name, first name	
date	
signature	

**2 Title of the X-Student Research Group**

**3 Institutional Affiliation**

To ensure that the X-Student Research Group can be implemented smoothly, organizational support is required (e.g. booking rooms, laboratory space or equipment) from the department. The X-Student Research Group therefore requires an institutional affiliation. This affiliation is ensured by a professor who is informed about the proposal and assures with his or her signature that he or she will provide support in organizational matters.<sup>1</sup>

university	<input type="checkbox"/> FU	<input type="checkbox"/> HU	<input type="checkbox"/> TU	<input type="checkbox"/> Charité
faculty				
institute				
last name, first name of professor				
date				
signature of professor				

<sup>1</sup> X-Student Research Groups are made visible as teaching research projects in the course catalogs of the four partner institutions of the Berlin University Alliance. X-Student Research Groups are low-capacity in the sense that they are primarily considered only in the extracurricular area and, if applicable, in the interdisciplinary area.

**Berlin University Alliance**  
Gefördert im Rahmen der Exzellenzstrategie von Bund und Ländern



Part 4

# Selection Procedure



# Selection Procedure

1. Formal check by StuROP<sup>x</sup>-Coordination, including:
  - completeness of the application
  - appropriate scope of application
  - basic feasibility of the project (including an appropriate calculation for material funds, if applicable)
2. Evaluation of the applications by StuROP<sup>x</sup> Reviewer Panel
3. Funding decision by Steering Committee „Teaching and Learning“ of the Berlin University Alliance



# StuROP<sup>x</sup> Reviewer Panel

- 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 review of proposals

## 1. Quality of content

Clear Research question, relevance, ideas for sub-topics that students can work on and that contribute to answering the overarching question, method(s), preparation of results

## 2. Realization

Work phases, involvement of students, workload, realistic time planning

**3. Participating students**  
disciplines, previous knowledge

**4. Description of Role**  
Research Team!

**5. Cooperations/  
contribution to the  
BUA**

➤ Notes on the project outline implicitly contain all rating criteria:

[https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/teaching-learning/stuop/tutorials/call-for-proposals/3-unterlagen/en\\_info-on-project-outline\\_tuts.pdf](https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/teaching-learning/stuop/tutorials/call-for-proposals/3-unterlagen/en_info-on-project-outline_tuts.pdf)



# What is important to the reviewers?

- Clear research question
- Open-ended and participatory project (no classical seminar plans!)
- Original perspective or methodological approach
- Trans- or interdisciplinary approaches
- Realistic time schedule for research project
- Reasonable workload for students
- Presentation of outcomes for a “broader” audience (without being overambitious!)
- Proposals written well and understandable (also for non-specialists)
- No criterion but sensitivity to diversity and gender is positively perceived



Part 5

# Outlook and Schedule



# StuROP<sup>x</sup> Qualification Program

- Workshops on research-based learning. Ongoing exchange with other X-Student Research Group leaders during the semester on didactic issues.
- Supplementary workshops on topics such as science communication or research quality and open science.
- **Please find workshop dates here:**  
<https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/teaching-learning/sturop/qalifizierungsprogramm/index.html>

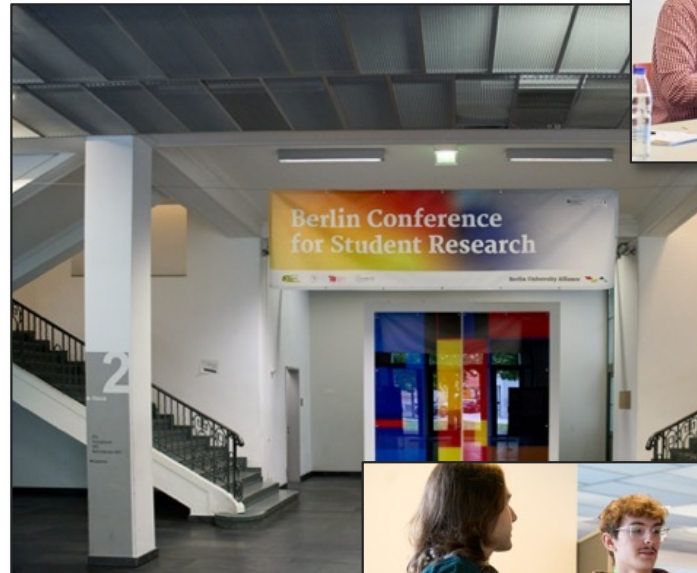


Leaders of X-Student Research Groups preparing their semester in a workshop, Cc: BUA



# Berlin Conference for Student Research

- Annual Conference
- Platform for showcasing student research:
  - Presentations
  - Supplementary workshops
  - Networking



**Program Berlin Conference for Student Research 2025**  
October, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025, Dorotheenstraße 24, in 10117 Berlin (House 1, Floor 4)

09:00 – 09:30: Opening Session  
Welcome by Christian Schröder, Vice President for Education, Teacher Training, and Continuing Education at Technische Universität Berlin, and member of the *Teaching and Learning* Steering Committee of the Berlin University Alliance  
Floor 4, Foyer

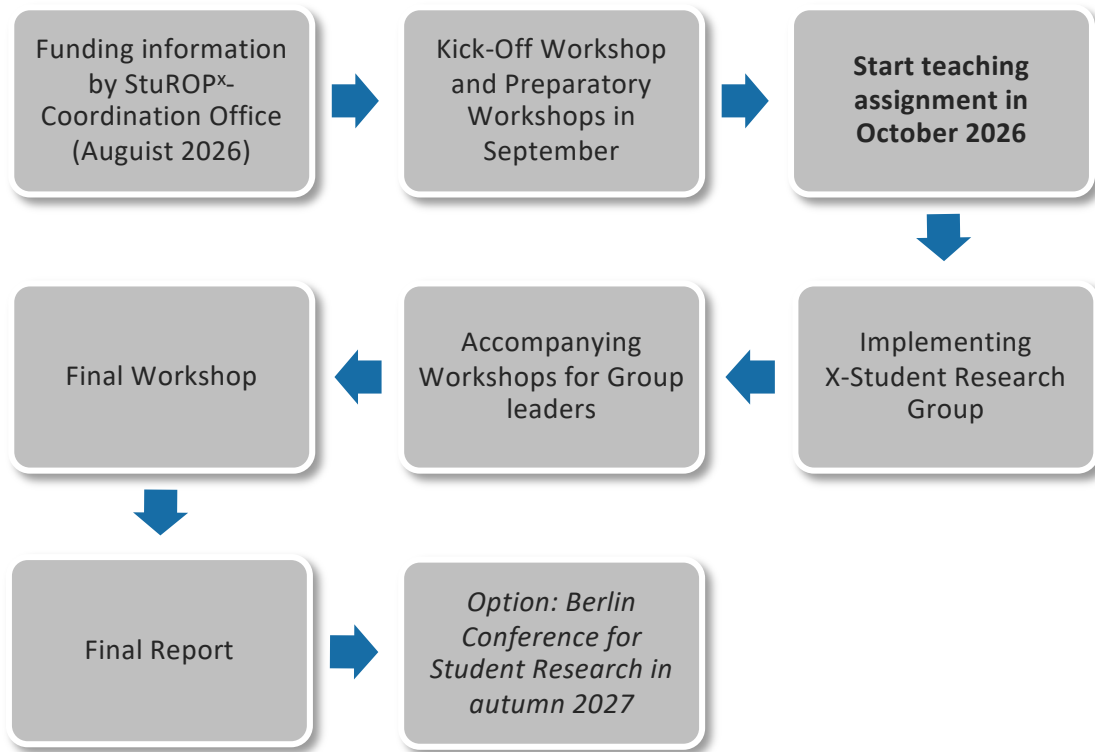
09:30 – 11:00: Panel A

- Session A1: Recht im Diskurs: Zwischen Gerechtigkeit, Kritik und Narration / Law in Discourse: Between Justice, Critique, and Narration  
Raum 1.402
- Session A2: Raum und Körper: Zwischen Norm und Abweichung / Space and Body: Between Norm and Deviation  
Raum 1.403
- Session A3: Disrupted Orders: On the Dynamics of Genes, Forms, and Functions  
Raum 1.403

Workshops: From Student Research to Business



# Schedule Winter Semester 2026/27



➔ Berlin Conference for Student Research Sept/Oct 2027



Part 6

## Q & A: Open Questions?



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# Now it's time for your questions!

- Contact: [sturop@berlin-university-alliance.de](mailto:sturop@berlin-university-alliance.de)
- Please submit your proposal by **May 31, 2026**
- **Further Questions?**  
Please check out the FAQs:  
<https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/teaching-learning/stuop/research-groups/en-faq-groups/index.html>

