

07.05.2025

### **X-Student Research Groups**

Research teams made up of junior researchers and students Information Event: Call for Proposals Winter Semester 2025-26

Dr. Nina Lorkowski, Program Manager Student Research Opportunities Program











### Agenda

- 1. Berlin University Alliance (BUA) and the Student Research Opportunites Program (StuROP<sup>x</sup>)
- 2. X-Student Research Groups
- 3. Application
- 4. Selection Procedure
- 5. Schedule
- 6. Q&A











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









Berlin University Alliance 🚬 📥

## 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



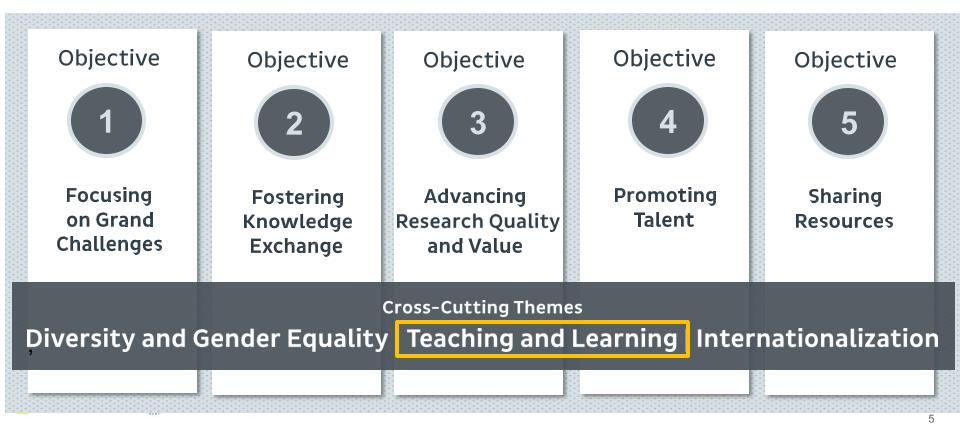








### Goals of the Berlin University Alliance





## 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>)

CHARITÉ





### Berlin University Alliance 🚬

**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**

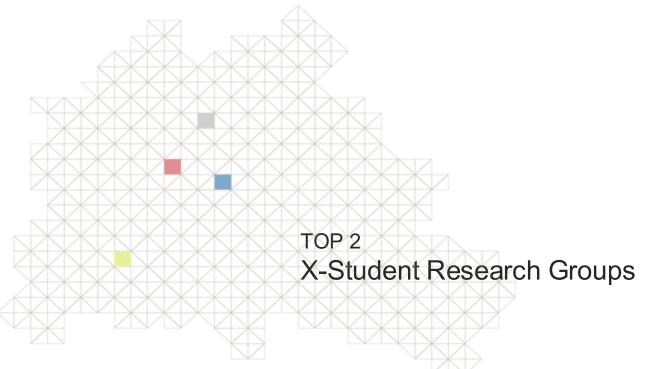
- Research tutorials initiated and conducted by students; tutors conduct research with other students as a team on a topic of their interest
- Goal: To give students the freedom to work independently on their own research question





















### 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 Group "Active Perception" lead by Pia Bideau, TU Berlin

#### Berlin University Alliance 🚬

## What is the funding?

- 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", CC by TU Berlin









#### **Berlin University Alliance**



## X-Student Research Group as a course

- Interdisciplinary and cross-semester collaboration ۰
  - 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

1000	Berlin	(9) -	-TU	CHARITÉ
Modulbeschreibur	ng X-Student Rese	earch Groups 6 LP		
Modul: Forschungspr	rojekt mit Nachwuchsf	forschenden – X-Student Re	search Groups	
Hochschule: Partner	hochschulen der Berli	in University Alliance: Chari	é, FU, HU, TU	
Modulverantwortlich	e/r: Dozentinnen und	Dozenten des Moduls		
Zugangsvoraussetz	ungen: keine			
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### Berlin University Alliance 🚬 📥

### 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 worskhops within the qualification program)

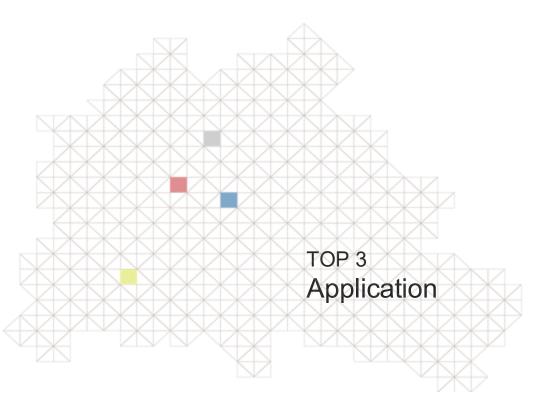


Preparatory Workshop within the Framework of the StuROP<sup>x</sup>-Qualification Program



















### 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. Please avoid any further appendix!
- Includes:
  - introduction to the research question/topic and its relevance

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- timeline and short description of the (didactic) implementation of the working phases
- assessment for which students the project is interestingor suitable
- If applicable: potential cooperations with other (social) actors or institutions
- Please check: <u>https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/teaching-learning/sturop/research-groups/call-for-proposals/3-unterlagen/en\_info-on-project-outline\_groups.pdf</u>









### What does the complete application contain?

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

- up to 750 €
- Important: necessity for research/project implementation
- ou 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



















### **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)!

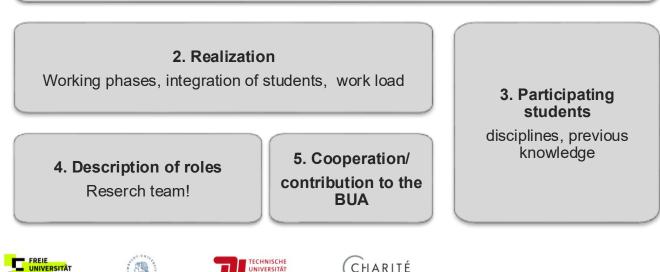




## Criteria for the evaluation of proposals

#### 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



Notes on the project outline implicitly contain all rating criteria:

> https://www.berlin-universityalliance.de/en/commitments/tea ching-learning/sturop/researchgroups/call-for-proposals/3unterlagen/en\_info-on-projectoutline\_groups.pdf



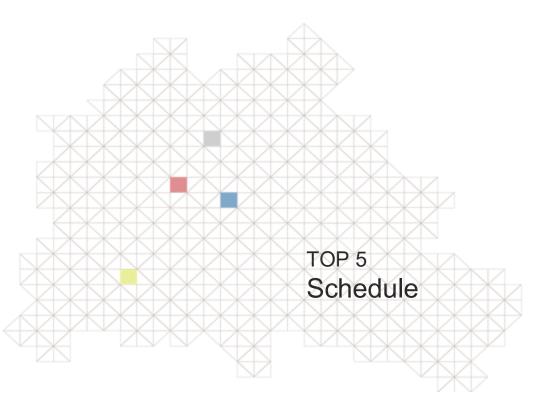
## What is important to the reviewers?

- 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











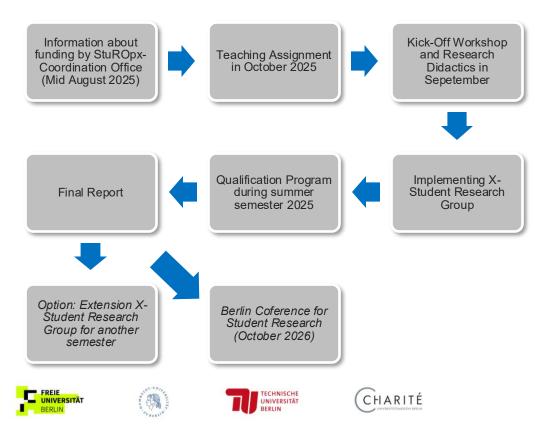








### Schedule Winter Semester 2025-26





Annual Berlin Conference for Student Research



## 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: <u>https://www.berlin-university-</u> <u>alliance.de/en/commitments/teaching-</u> <u>learning/sturop/qalifizierungsprogramm/index.html</u>



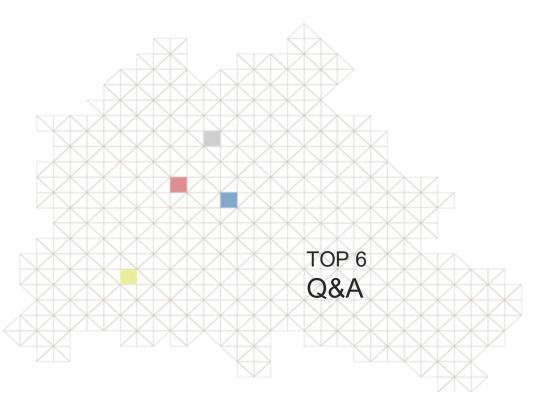






















### Contact: sturop@berlin-university-alliance.de

Please submit your proposal until: June 1st 2025

# Now it's time for your questions!

Further Questions? Please check out the FAQs: https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/teachinglearning/sturop/research-groups/en-faq-groups/index.html







