



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

Information Event: Call for Proposals summer semester 2026

28.10.2025

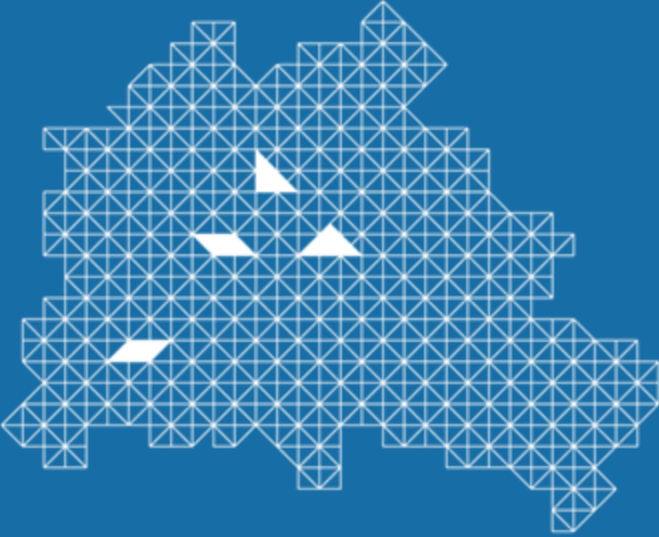


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Agenda

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



Part 1

Berlin University Alliance (BUA) and the Student Research Opportunities Program (StuROP^x)



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 (for 7 years)
- Start of the funding period: November 2019 (End: October 2026)



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 (StuROP^x)



StuROP^x

Student Research Opportunities Program (StuROP^x)

Central program of the BUA for linking
research and teaching

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
- Junior researchers gain (more) experience in leading an research group and teaching

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
- Students gain (more) experience in research and teaching



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

Freie Universität Berlin

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Technische Universität Berlin

CHARITÉ

Modulbeschreibung X-Student Research Groups 6 LP

Modul: Forschungsprojekt mit Nachwuchsforschenden – X-Student Research Groups

Hochschule: Partnerhochschulen der Berlin University Alliance: Charité, FU, HU, TU

Modulverantwortliche: Dozentinnen und Dozenten des Moduls

Zugangsvoraussetzungen: keine

Qualifikationsziele: 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 Forschungsprojekts, in dem sie beteiligt sind und für die Scientific Community, zu der sie für diesen begrenzten Zeitraum gehören.

Inhalte:
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: 2 LP - 1 LP für die Teilnahme - 1 LP für Vor- und Nachbereitung	Seminar: Präsenzzeit: 30 Vor- und Nachbereitung: 30 Lehrforschungsprojekt: Präsenzzeit: 120
Leistungspunkte und Voraussetzung für deren Erteilung		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 multimedialer Form (z. B. Audio- oder Videomaterial, Objektpräsentationen oder Ausstellung).	

Berlin University Alliance

Gefördert im Rahmen der Exzellenzstrategie von Bund und Ländern

1

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[®]-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**.



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



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.¹

university	☐ FU ☐ HU ☐ TU ☐ Charité
faculty	
institute	
last name, first name of professor	
date	
signature of professor	

¹ 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.

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What does the complete application contain? (3)

Supervision agreement provided by a subject-specific supervisor

- By a professor or research assistant
- Assessment of the feasibility of the research project
- Willingness to provide expert advice and support the implementation
- Can award participating students with credit points

Form: Proof of institutional affiliation

- Confirmation (signature) of a professor (might be the same person as the supervisor)
- Institutional affiliation = responsible for the organizational implementation of the X-Tutorial, e.g. room booking, access to learning platform, use of laboratory facilities

Applying for an X-Tutorial

1 Name and signature of applicant

1st applicant

last name, first name	
date and signature	

2nd applicant (fill in only if the application is submitted by two persons)

last name, first name	
date and signature	

2 Title of the X-Tutorial

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3 Institutional Affiliation

To ensure that the X-Tutorial can be implemented smoothly, organizational support is required (e.g. booking rooms, laboratory space or equipment) from the department. The X-Tutorial 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.

university	☐ FU ☐ HU ☐ TU ☐ Charité
faculty	
institute	
last name, first name of professor	
date	
signature of professor	

Part 4

Selection Procedure



Selection Procedure

1. Formal check by StuROP^x-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^x Reviewer Panel
3. Funding decision by Steering Committee „Teaching and Learning“ of the Berlin University Alliance



StuROP^x 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. Cooperation/
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



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



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StuROP^x 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>



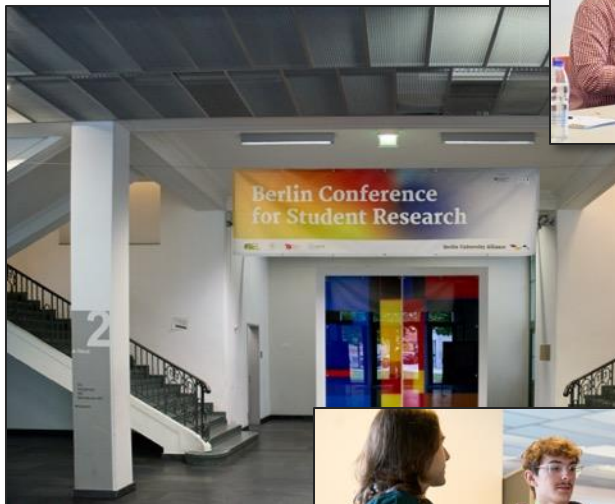
Leaders of X-Student Research Groups preparing their semester in a workshop, Cc: BUA



Berlin Conference for Student Research

- Annual Conference
- Platform for showcasing student research:

Presentations
Supplementary workshops
Networking



Program Berlin Conference for Student Research 2025

October, 2nd 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

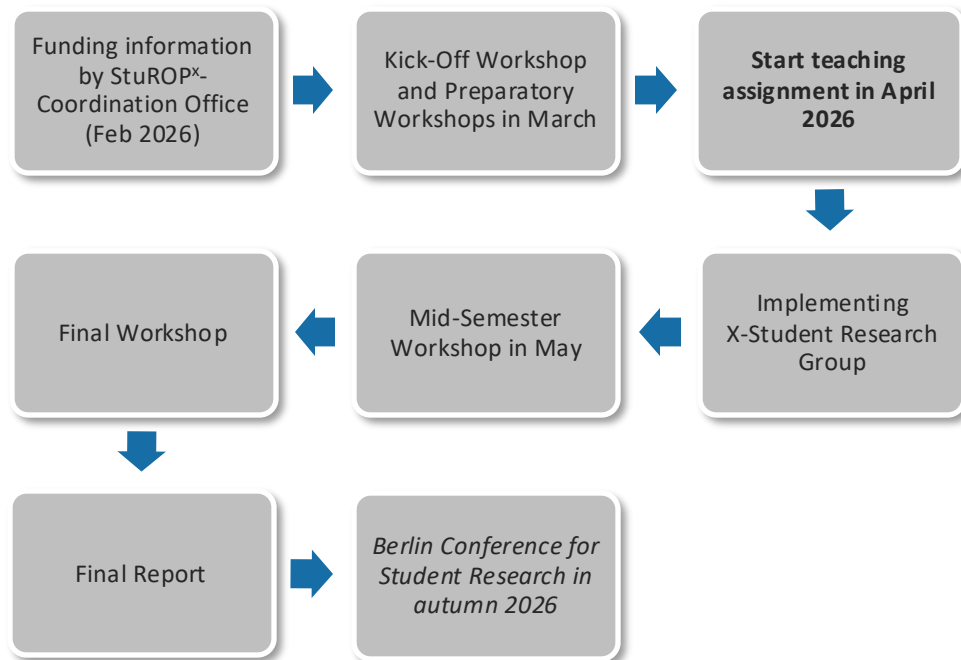
09:30 – 11:00: Panel A

- 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

Workshops: From Student Research to Business



Schedule Summer Semester 2026



➔ Berlin Conference for Student Research
Sept/ Oct 2026

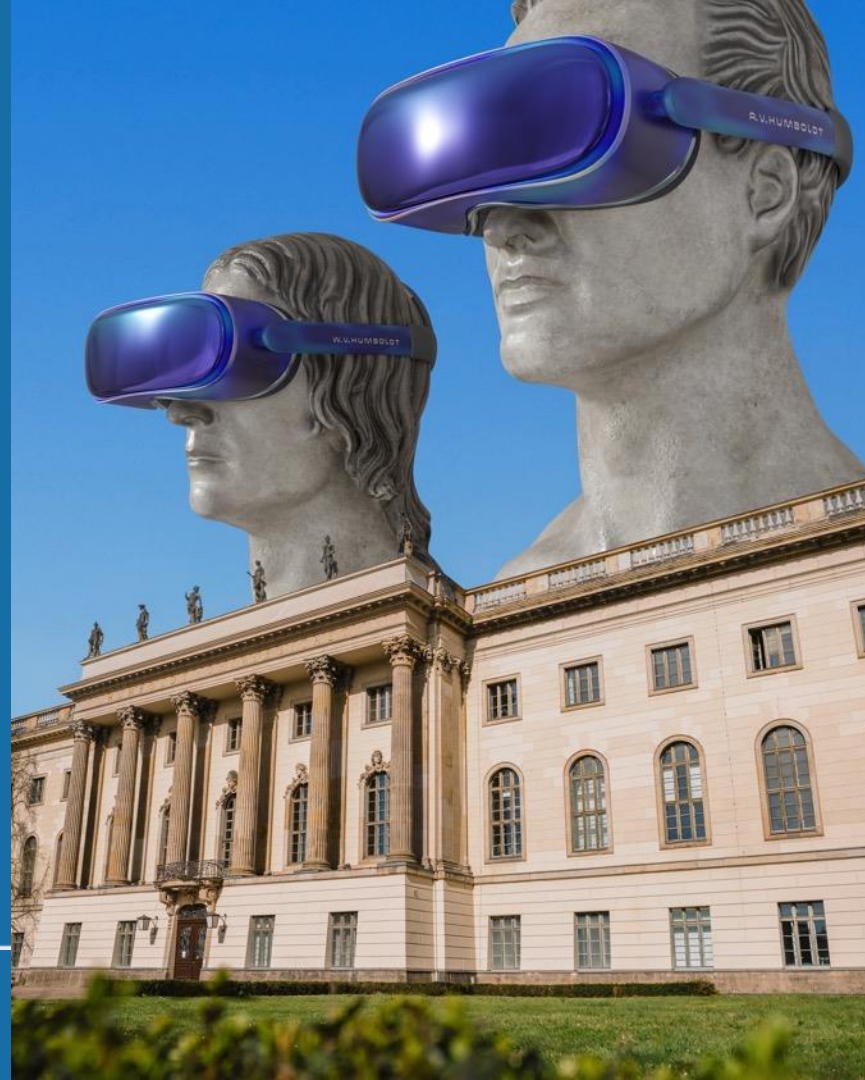


Part 6

Q & A: Open Questions?



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Now it's time for your questions!

- Contact: sturop@berlin-university-alliance.de
- Please submit your proposal by **November 30, 2025**
- **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>

