



X-Tutorials: Research projects by students for students

Information Event: Call for Proposals summer semester 2026

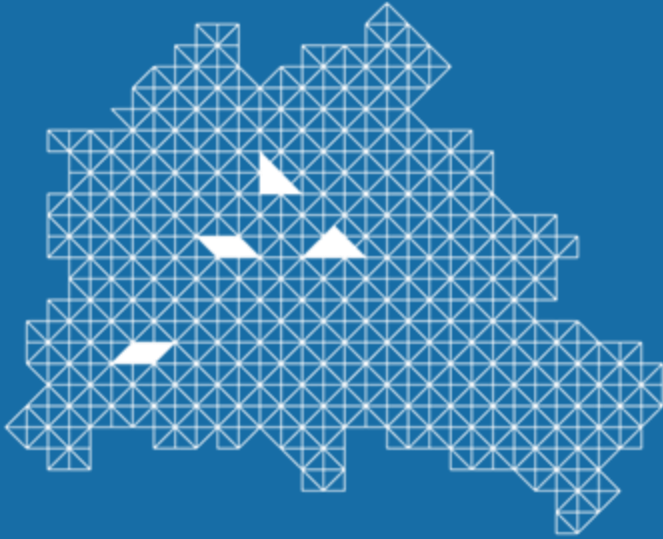
28.10.2025



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Agenda



1. Berlin University Alliance (BUA) and the Student Research Opportunities Program (StuROP^x)
2. X-Tutorials
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 (initially for 7 years)
- Start of the funding period: November 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 (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-Tutorials



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X-Tutorials: Student-organized research groups

- Two student research fellows as project head (projects led by a single student are also possible)
- Duration: 6 months + extension for another 6 month, provided that the BUA receives continued funding)
- Material resources (up to 750 €/project)
- Fellowship in the amount of 550€/month
- Formal requirement: Enrollment at FU/HU/TU/CHA
- Funding of 8 X-Tutorials per semester by the Berlin University Alliance
- Qualification program + regular meetings for the student research fellows
- Supervision by a professor or research assistant



X-Tutorial: “Improvisation als Ereignis. Musikalische Avantgarde und transkulturelle Netzwerke zwischen Berlin und Darmstadt”, HU Berlin.
Cc by Maya Oppitz, Kilian Scholla, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin



X-Tutorials as collaborative research projects

- Student Research Fellows conduct their research project together with other student.
- The questions for an X-Tutorial should be designed in such a way that the project benefits from the participation of different students.
- Implementation either as **two 1-semester projects** or **one 2-semester project**
- It is **possible** to announce the X-Tutorial as a course in the course catalogue. Participating students can gain credit points.



X-Tutorial: „The Azolla-Event“, FU Berlin, Cc by Graf/Polenz



X-Tutorial as a course

Interdisciplinary and cross-semester collaboration

- Announced in the course catalogue
- Open for participation to all students of the BUA-partner institutions
- Up to 15 participants per project (in case of more interested students, participants will be drawn by lot)

Participants receive credit points

- 6 ECTS for 1 semester (=180 h workload)
- Creditable in the free elective area/ABV/ÜwP, individual crediting possible on application in own study program

   			
Modulbeschreibung X-Tutorials 6 LP			
Modul: Studentisches Forschungsprojekt – X-Tutorial			
Hochschule: Partnerhochschulen der Berlin University Alliance: Charité, FU, HU, TU			
Modulverantwortlicher: Betreuende Professorin bzw. betreuender Professor des Projekts			
Zugangsvoraussetzungen: keine			
Qualifikationsziele: Studierende kennen verschiedene Phasen eines Forschungsprozesses. Sie sind in der Lage, ein zeitlich begrenztes Forschungsprojekt oder Teile davon selbstständig in einem studentischen Team durchzuführen, d. h. Forschungsfragen zu formulieren, 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, Ziele für den gemeinsamen Arbeitsprozess zu definieren, die Aufgaben untereinander aufzuteilen und sich gegenseitig 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.			
Inhalte: Das Modul bietet die Möglichkeit, ein zeitlich begrenztes Forschungsprojekt zu planen und durchzuführen. 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, Mitarbeit bei der Planung und Durchführung eines studentischen 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 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). Diese Leistung kann individuell oder in Gruppen erbracht werden. - 1 LP für die Erstellung eines leitragenden individuellen Reflexionsberichts	Seminar: Präsenzzeit Vor- und Nachbereitung 30 30 Lehrforschungsprojekt: Präsenzzeit 120
Leistungspunkte und Voraussetzung für deren Erteilung			
Modulprüfung	keine		
Abschluss	Das Modul gilt als vollständig absolviert, wenn alle Bestandteile des Moduls erfolgreich absolviert wurden.		

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Berlin University Alliance 

Gefördert im Rahmen der Exzellenzstrategie von Bund und Ländern

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X-Tutorials: Designed to foster Undergraduate Research Experience



- 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 takes place 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 details, project title and institutional affiliation
- Motivation

Project outline (English or German)

- 3 pages (max) + 1 page bibliography (if required). Please avoid any further appendix! Description of research project
- Including a schedule over the course of 12 months and an assessment of the disciplinary backgrounds of the participating students
- Please check:
https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/teaching-learning/stuorop/tutorials/call-for-proposals/3-unterlagen/en_info-on-project-outline_tuts.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.



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

The form is titled "Applying for an X-Tutorial" and includes logos for the Berlin University Alliance, Charité, and TU Berlin. It is divided into three main sections:

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

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

4. Cooperation/ contribution to the BUA

3. Participating students

disciplines, previous knowledge

- 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 for scholarship holders: Preparation for their task as leaders of a research project and support them throughout this process.
- Additional workshops on topics that support their further qualification in the field of research and teaching.
- Please find workshop dates here:
<https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/teaching-learning/stuop/qalifizierungsprogramm/index.html>



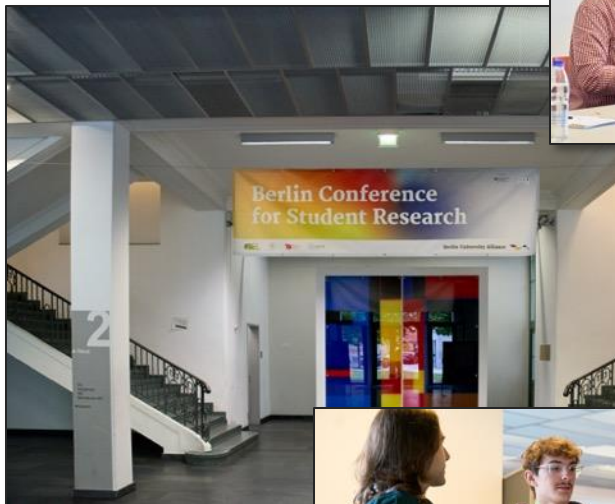
X-Tutorial leaders participating in a workshop, Cc: BUA



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

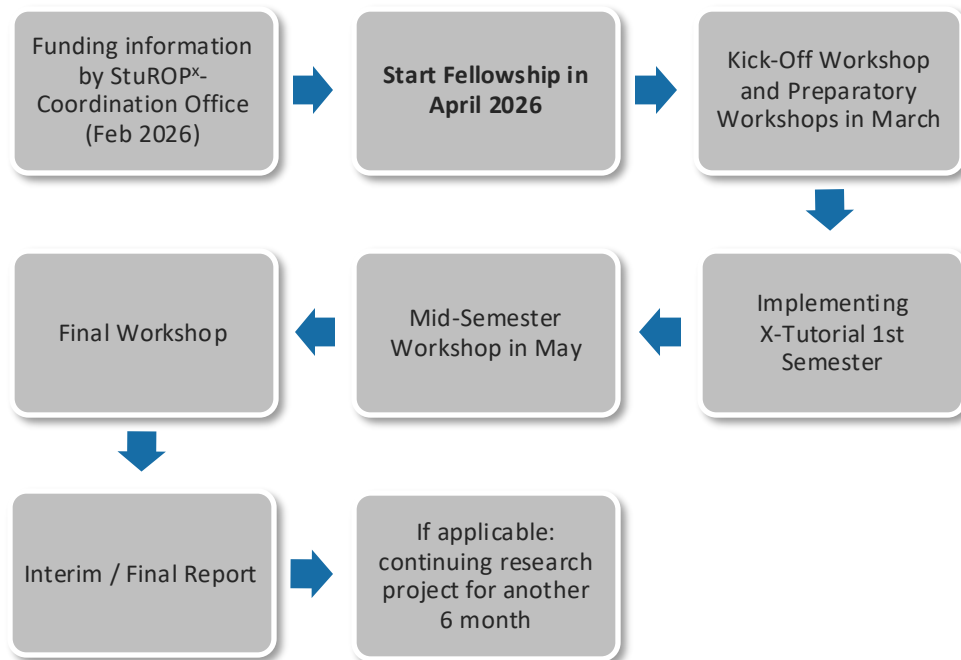
09:30 – 11:00: Panel A

- 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



Presentation of Outcomes

- Here are some examples for publications for a broader audience
- Please note: The research process is center stage!



Online Publication:
„Das Leben der Auguste und wie
es hätte sein können“,
by X-Tutorial“
(De-)Kolonialisierung und Digital
Humanities“



Students presenting at the
national conference for
student research in
Oldenburg (StuFo)



Exhibition, Lichthof HU Berlin: X-
Tutorial
„The Diverse Brain“



X-Tutorial presenting at
a symposium at their
institute



Want to learn more?

- **Peer-Austausch mit erfahrenen X-Tutor:innen der Berlin University Alliance**
- 6.11.20215, 16:00-17:30
- Online event (in German)
- Organized by the career service of FU Berlin, open to all students within the Berlin University Alliance
- https://www.fu-berlin.de/sites/career/qualifizierung/wege/tutoring/termine/2025_peer_xtutorials_061125.html

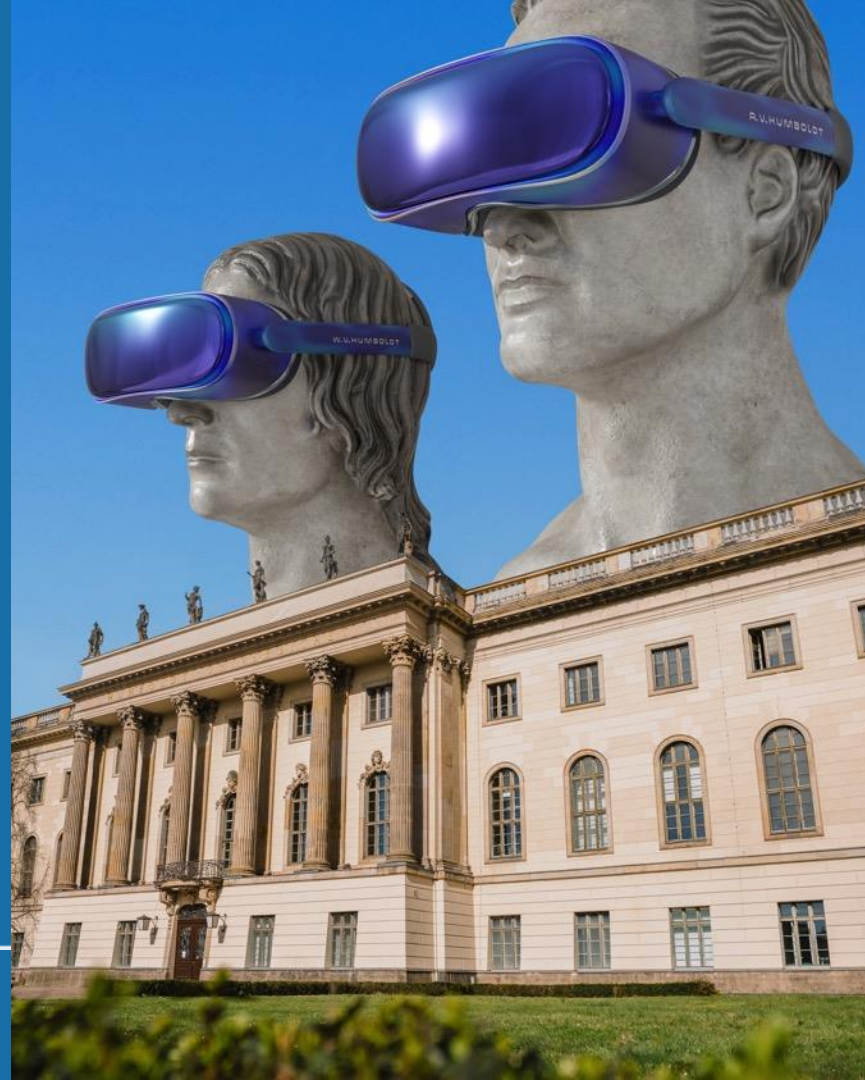


Part 6

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/sturop/tutorials/faq-tuts/index.html>

