**BUA Postdoc Academy: Open Call “Hit the Jackpot 2025”**

**Up to €10,000 for Postdoc Networking Projects fostering Career Growth!**

After the success of the 2023 and 2024 calls, *Hit the Jackpot* enters its third round to fund collaborative networking career-supporting projects.

**Initiatives eligible for funding**

Are you a postdoctoral researcher looking to expand your academic collaborations across borders? We look forward to supporting with up to 10,000€ the best and most innovative from Postdocs self-initiated networking career-idea. This grant supports projects to develop regional, national, and international networks and engage with diverse academic cultures and scientific innovations.

Therefore, get together with your peers and create a space to discuss topics of common interests related to your career, socially relevant themes or/and scientific tasks. All this in an interdisciplinary frame or just discipline specific, in or out of academia, is up to you!

Through this open call, we aim to support a wide range of networking activities and formats, provided that your personal career development remains the primary objective. We particularly encourage creative and innovative approaches to regional, national, or international networking, and welcome projects that demonstrate strong potential for meaningful career advancement.

**Hit the Jackpot Goals**

The funding provided is intended to:

• Support early-career researchers in developing their careers by learning to integrate local, international, and interdisciplinary perspectives through networking.

• Foster collaboration and exchange between researchers from different institutions and disciplines in Berlin and beyond, focusing on topics relevant to career development, both within and outside academia.

**Application Process**

Each project must be initiated by at least two postdocs from different BUA institutions. We welcome additional collaboration with international partners or partners from the Berlin-Brandenburg research area (e.g., BR50 institutions), although this is not required.

**Primarily, support will be provided in the form of material resources up to €10,000. The funds will be available from 2026 and should be expended within the year.**

Please submit the application form along with project leader’s CV in a single PDF document.

Applications can be submitted up to 10th Friday, October 2025. The results will be announced in November 2025.

The applications will be evaluated by the Postdoc Academy Council, which will make a final decision based on the following criteria:

• **The objectives and significance of your networking project for career development.**
• **The group of beneficiaries (how postdocs will benefit in terms of career development and community building).**
• **Viability: Procedure and implementation of strategies for building and maintaining professional relationships, knowledge transfer, and/or collaborative activities that support career advancement.**
• **Additional value (the anticipated impact and, if possible, the sustainability of the network or community).**

Successful applicants are required to a final report that must be submitted within four weeks after the project's completion by the end of 2026.

Please submit your complete application to **postdocs@berlin-university-alliance.de**

**Contact**

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