



Career Track “Academia” Pilot Project Online Information Session: 25 August 2026



WHO WE ARE

/// The Berlin University Alliance is Germany's first and only **University Consortium of Excellence**

/// **Alliance partners:**

Freie Universität Berlin

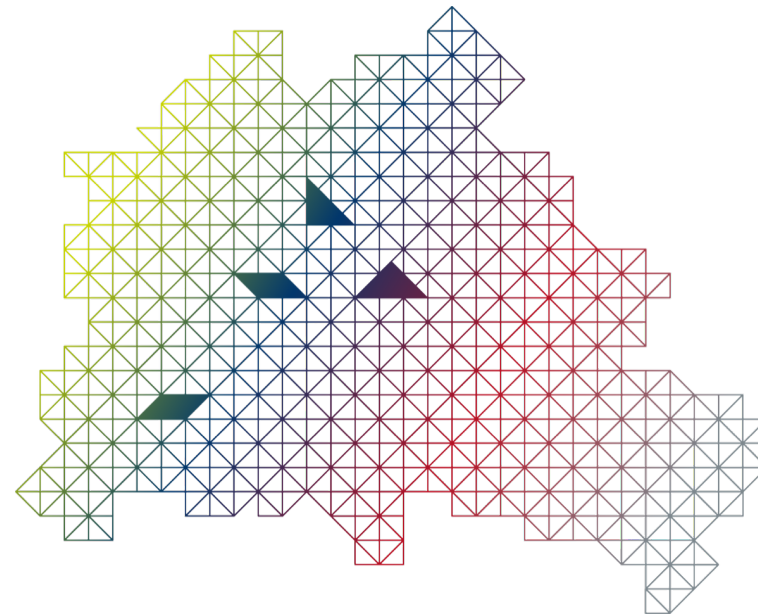
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Technische Universität Berlin

Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

/// **Our vision:**

To transform Berlin into an integrated research area and a leading center of scientific excellence in Europe



What is the Career Track “Academia ” Pilot Project ?

>> New cooperation format: Berlin University Alliance (BUA) x Einstein Foundation Berlin (ESB) x Berlin Research 50 (BR50, Non-university research institutes)

Objectives:

- Strengthen Berlin as a research hub: Deepen university and non-university research partnerships, enable knowledge transfer
- Expand cross-institutional resource and infrastructure access for cooperative research projects
- Attract and support excellent international postdocs in their career and competence development



Key Features

- Access to Expanded Resources through Collaboration: Engage in a cooperative research project that bridges a BUA institution and non-university research institute and gain access to the extended networks and infrastructures of both the Berlin University Alliance (BUA) and Berlin Research 50 (BR50) partners
- Funding from the Einstein Foundation Berlin for up to 4 years at a 100% employment level
- Eligibility for International Researchers: The program is specifically designed for international postdocs who have been active in research outside the EU, Norway, or Switzerland for at least two years

Applications can only be submitted via the BUA alliance partners:



Who can apply ?

Postdocs with...

- Cooperative Research Projects:

Your research must involve a collaboration between a BUA institution AND a BR50 institute

- International Background:

At the time of application, you must have been working in research outside the EU, Norway, or Switzerland for at least two years

Please note: Candidates must not exceed an “Academic Age” of 4 years (or 10 years, depending on the Einstein Foundation Berlin Postdoc Grant Variant) following PhD completion.



Funding Details

- Funding Body: Einstein Foundation Berlin
- Duration: Up to 4 years
- Employment: 100% full-time position at income level TV-L E13-E15
- Employer: The BUA institution will be your employer (handling all legal and administrative duties)



What does your application need?

- Application Form → Available on the website of the Einstein Foundation
- Budget Plan & Attachment → Available on the website of the Einstein Foundation
- Attachments A, B, C, D

Download:

<https://www.einsteinfoundation.de/en/funding/einstein-postdoctoral-grant>

Forms for Download

Application form (Word) ➤

Budget plan (Excel) ➤

Budget plan attachment (PDF) ➤

Progress report form (Word) ➤

Reporting form (Word) ➤

Code for funding recipients (PDF) ➤

Guidelines on Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Career Support (PDF) ➤



Application : Attachments

Attachment A:

- Letter of Support from hosting institution (university, Charité)
→ Institutional support both in terms of *immaterial* (career support, supervision, etc.) and *material support* (i.e. make clear that the applying institution provides necessary resources from its own funding ("Eigenmittel") like office/lab space, infrastructure, administrative support, etc.
- Letter of Intent from non-university research institute
→ Contact Marlies Zwickl for further details

Attachment B: CV

- Must contain information on the candidate's educational and professional history (incl. exact dates of the PhD or habilitation certificate(s)) and list of publications (or a meaningful selection); 4 pages max.



Application : Attachments

Attachment C: Research Project Description

1. Research question, relevance, impact, objectives → including cooperative aspect
2. Current state of research, own previous contributions, preliminary work
3. Detailed work plan (incl. work packages/subprojects, hypotheses, methods)
4. Details of ethical aspects (if applicable)
5. Collaborations and outreach (e.g. intra- and interinstitutional, national/international, with non-academic partners)
6. Plans for scientific output (publications, open science, applications, patents etc.)
(12 pages max.)

Attachment D: Budget Plan

- Template provided by Einstein Foundation Berlin
→ <https://www.einsteinfoundation.de/en/funding/einstein-postdoctoral-grant>



Application Process and Deadlines

- Grant Applications are submitted via Universities and Charité
 - Contact the institutional representative early (as soon as possible!) – but only after securing a host commitment
- Name your host and faculty in your initial email

Deadlines

- Pre-Deadline at TU: 18 September 2026, and at FU, HU and Charité: 5 October 2026
- Application Deadline ESB: 16 November 2026

Funding decision is expected for June 2027



Contact persons at Department for Research Funding are organized by subject area, visit:
<https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/forschung/kontakt/vi-c-forschungsfoerderung/index.html>

Pre-Deadline: 5 October 2026



Contact persons:

Dr. Christoph Raiser: christoph.raiser@hu-berlin.de

Dr. Carsten Gerrits: carsten.gerrits@uv.hu-berlin.de

Pre-Deadline: **5 October 2026**



Contact:

Dr. Stefan Schlelein: stefan.schlelein@tu-berlin.de

Pre-Deadline: 18 September 2026



Contact:

Dr. Julia Wolanski: julia.wolanski@charite.de

Pre-Deadline: 5 October 2026



- Can part of the project funding be allocated to the collaborating institute, for example, to cover personnel or other project-related expenses?

Yes, part of non-personnel or material costs ("Sachmittel") can be allocated to the non-university research institute

- Can I apply if my PhD is not yet completed?

Yes, if you can provide a statement from your university/supervisor that your PhD will be completed by June 2027 (date of funding decision).

- Can I apply if I have held a short term research fellowship in the EU within the past 24 months?

Please contact the Einstein Foundation with the exact dates and duration of your short term research stay to inquire for eligibility.



Contact

Contact for Questions & Cooperation Support:

Marlies Zwickl

✉ marlies.zwickl@berlin-university-alliance.de

☎ +49 30 838 65554

Questions regarding Eligibility, e.g., Academic Age, International Background please contact
Einstein Foundation Berlin

✉ antrag@einsteinfoundation.de



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

