X-Tutorials
Research projects by students for students

Information Event Call for Proposals summer semester 2025

Agenda

1. Berlin University Alliance (BUA) and StuROP^x
2. X-Tutorials
3. Application
4. Selection procedure
5. Schedule
6. Contact

TOP 1

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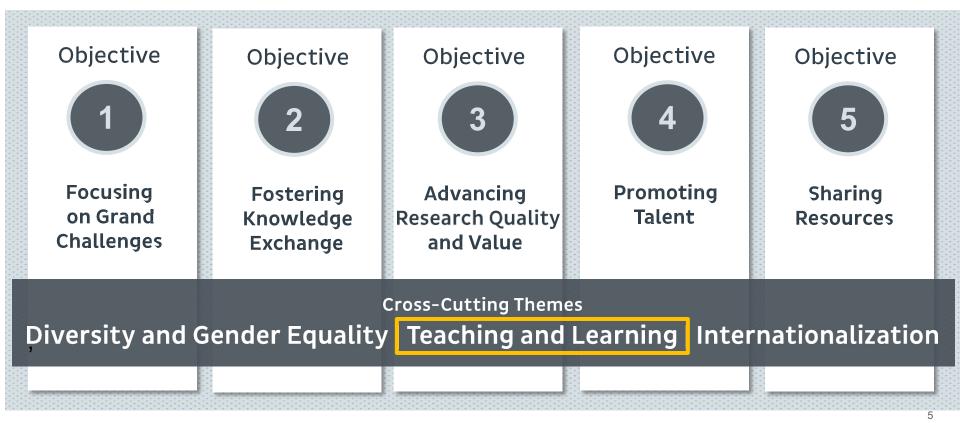
Berlin University Alliance (BUA)

- 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

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 the criticism 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

StuROP^x-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 projects initiated and conducted by students. Student Research Fellows 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

TOP 2
X-Tutorials

X-Tutorials: Student-organized research groups

- Two student research fellows as project head (projects led by a single student are also possible)

- Duration: 12 months

- Material resources (up to 750 €/project)

- Fellowship in the amount of 550€/month

- Funding of 8 X-Tutorials per semester by the Berlin University Alliance

- Qualification program + regular meetings for the student research fellows
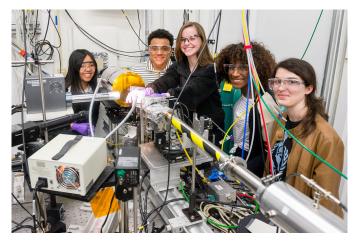
- Supervision by a professor or research assistant

- Interim and final report

X-Tutorial „Mauer(Rad)weg, TU Berlin, CC by P. Ragalski u. F. Rogin

X-Tutorials: Student-organized research groups

X-Tutorials are 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

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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

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.

TOP 4
Application

What does the complete application contain? (1)

- Application form (online)
  - Applicant details, project title and institutional affiliation
  - Motivation
- Project outline
  - 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
- 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 prokect and you also might apply for additional funds during the course of the project.

What does the complete application contain? (2)

- 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 the learning platform, use of laboratory facilities

TOP 5
Selection procedure

Selection Procedure

1. Formal check by StuROPx-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 StuROPx Reviewer Panel
3. Funding decision by Steering Committee „Teaching and Learning" of the Berlin University Alliance

StuROPˣ Reviewer Panel

- Expert panel for the review of the proposals
- 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 applications

Notes on the project outline:

https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/commitments/teaching-learning/sturop/tutorials/call-for-proposals/3-unterlagen/index.html

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

3. Participating students

disciplines, previous knowledge

4. Cooperation/ contribution to the BUA

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
- Proposals written well and understandable (also for non-specialists)
- No criterion but sensitivity to diversity and gender is positively perceived
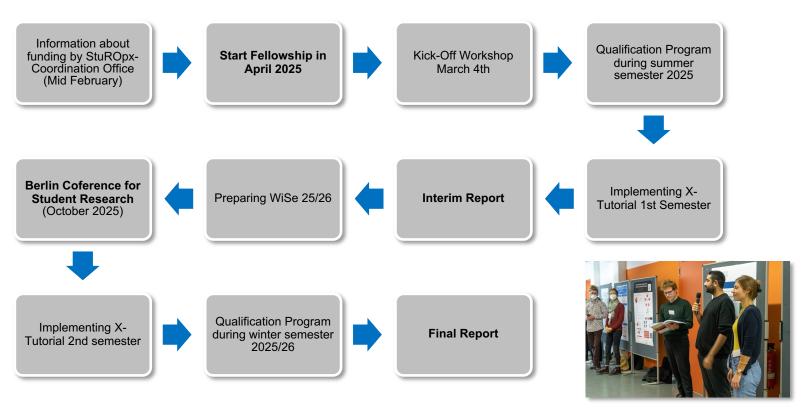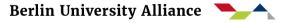
Schedule SoSe 2025 - WiSe 2025/26

Information about funding by StuROpx-Coordination Office (Mid February) →
Start Fellowship in April 2025 →
Kick-Off Workshop March 4th →
Qualification Program during summer semester 2025 ↓

Berlin Coference for Student Research (October 2025) ←
Preparing WiSe 25/26 ←
Interim Report ←
Implementing X-Tutorial 1st Semester

↓

Implementing X-Tutorial 2nd semester →
Qualification Program during winter semester 2025/26 →
Final Report

Contact for qustions:
sturop@berlin-university-alliance.de

Complete proposals have to be handed in until **01.12.2024**.