

BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPANTS

- strengthened career motivation and improved career planning
- preparation for appointment procedures in Germany and in selected international higher education systems
- development of management, leadership and strategic competencies
- conveyance of in-depth knowledge of structures, processes and the rules of the game in academia
- expanded network within the scientific community and in further relevant fields
- training and guidance of international women researchers in English

PREREQUISITES FOR APPLICATION

The ProFiL Programme addresses women scholars with a habilitation, habilitation candidates, junior professors, leaders of junior research groups and postdocs of Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin and Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, who pursue a professorship.

The programme is offered in German and in English. The German programme line requires a very good command of German and the English line a very good command of English (C1 level). The English programme line is intended for international women scholars. International English-speaking women researchers based at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin may apply for the English programme line. If you wish to participate, you should be prepared to:

- actively engage in building a mentoring relationship
- participate in the programme's seminars and the evaluation

A fee of 150 Euro is charged.

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCEDURE

Admission to the programme takes place in a two-stage process via a written application and an online application form as well as a personal selection interview. Your written application must contain:

- your letter of motivation, in which you explain your motivation to participate in the programme and your goals
- an outline of your current research project or the topic of your habilitation (max. 1 page)
- details regarding the (planned) completion of the habilitation, or the current phase of your qualification
- your CV including the grade for the doctoral thesis, if applicable
- a complete list of your academic accomplishments (publications, teaching, lectures, third-party funding, prizes, etc.)
- a copy of your PhD certificate

Deadline for applications is 15 November 2024.

CONTACT & FURTHER INFORMATION

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**PROFESSIONALISIERUNG FÜR FRAUEN
IN FORSCHUNG & LEHRE:
MENTORING – TRAINING – NETWORKING**



Photo: David Ausserhofer

Inter-University Programme for
Women Scholars Preparing for
a Professorship

July 2025 to July 2026

SPONSORED BY THE



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and Research



Berlin University Alliance

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FEMALE PROFESSORS FOR UNIVERSITIES OF THE FUTURE

The ProFiL Programme for women researchers pursuing a professorship is successfully run by Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Technische Universität Berlin since 2004. ProFiL supports high-achieving women researchers in the further development of their careers and prepares them for the future leadership tasks of a professor. As a result of the successful consortium proposal within the Excellence Strategy, the three cooperating universities together with Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, as *Berlin University Alliance*, have substantially extended the number of programme participants and can now offer an English programme line.

International competition for talent, current higher education reform processes and demographic change constitute profound challenges for universities in Germany. To ensure their long-term performance and competitiveness, universities need to attract young talent.

Simultaneously, university reform processes change the requirement profile for professors. No longer are outstanding research accomplishments the sole important factor for academic success. In addition, professional management and leadership skills, engagement in shaping higher education policy and strategic competencies are required to successfully shape reform processes.

To date, universities have not tapped the entire pool of young talent. Qualified women still have only limited access to academia since their entry into and promotion within the academic system remain impeded by traditional role expectations as well as highly male-dominated role models, professional cultures and work-time schedules.

With the ProFiL Programme, the *Berlin University Alliance* aims to overcome these barriers and to implement modern methods of leadership development. The targeted promotion of women researchers contributes to increasing the proportion of women holding professorships. Commitment to strategies promoting diversity and equal opportunities is thus not only a matter of social justice, but also an important principle of higher education policy and a success factor for competitiveness.

THE PROGRAMME

The 18th ProFiL round, offered in German and English, is scheduled from July 2025 to July 2026, admitting a cohort of 66 women researchers. The programme combines mentoring, seminars and training sessions on issues of specific interest to scholars as well as strategic networking within the ProFiL Network.

Each programme round is launched by an official kick-off event.

MENTORING

The programme offers its participants two forms of mentoring:

- **one-to-one mentoring** with a professor
- **group mentoring** with several participants and one or two professors

The mentors are experienced professors from universities or non-university research institutes, or leaders of companies and other relevant organisations where appropriate. Mentoring for international participants will be conducted in English.

The mentors counsel the mentees on career planning and provide them with constructive feedback about their academic profile, accomplishments and skills. They share important information on fulfilling leadership requirements and on structures and processes in research and academia, explain unwritten rules and facilitate access to networks.

The mentoring is prepared and continuously supported by workshops and one-to-one conversations. Besides clarifying the appropriate mentoring form, a profile for selecting a mentor is created with each participant, or the participant names specific persons of her choice.

The Head of the ProFiL Programme and the coordinators of the English programme line arrange the contact and are continuously available as contact persons. The mentors can choose between personal and phone conversations, which are adapted to their time restraints.

TRAINING

Over the course of the programme, six seminars are organised. Their content is adjusted to the needs and interests of the participants.

- **“Potential Analysis & Career Planning”** (2 days)
- **“Appointment Procedures in Germany”** (3 days)
- **“Appointment Procedures in Selected Higher Education Systems”** (2 days)
- **“Leadership Demands in Academia”** (3 days)
- **“Higher Education Management & Higher Education Policy”** (2,5 days)
- **“Acquisition of Third-Party Funding”** (1 day)

NETWORKING

The ProFiL Network and the ProFiL Network Association, founded in 2013, offer the participants stable and sustainable support structures. They promote networking and the exchange among the network members and support the exploration of potential collaborations with:

- events with discussion rounds and “networking dinner”
- annual networking conferences
- informal personal contact

Furthermore, a dialogue with leaders in academia, politics and other fields is promoted in order to discuss future requirements and innovative reform models for the higher education system from a broader perspective.

COACHING

For participants in particularly challenging and in conflict situations, professional coaching is offered, the costs of which may be covered in whole or in part.