

Summary minutes

15th Round Table for the Advancement of Junior Scholars at TU Berlin, 25th February 2021

Topic: *Challenges due to the pandemic*

Together with the [TU Berlin Center for Junior Scholars \(TUB-CJS\)](#), Vice President for Strategic Development, Junior Scholars and Teacher Education, Professor Dr. Angela Ittel regularly holds round tables to address topics relevant to junior scholars.

The round tables are part of the [Strategy for the Advancement of Junior Scholars at TU Berlin](#) passed by the Academic Senate in July 2018. The objective of the round tables is to open a dialog between junior scholars and target groups involved in the advancement of junior scholars at TU Berlin for the discussion and development of ideas and measures in this area.

The 15th round table on 25th February 2021, which was conducted via ZOOM, focused on three goals:

- **Draw attention to the ongoing pandemic-related challenges and problems, especially for junior scholars.**
- **Provide a stage for existing measures.**
- **Finding ways to cope with the pandemic in everyday university life.**

Special quests:

Dipl.-Soz.-wirt Alexander Moritz (Advisor for Organizational Development)

- presented the services of the [crisis telephone](#) and offered insight into his work and the problems for which people seek help from him.

Prof. Dr. Etienne Emmrich (Dean Faculty II)

- described the measures with which Faculty II is trying to meet the challenges of the pandemic and the problems they are facing in doing so.

Dr. Stefan Schlelein (Department V [Research Service](#): Head of Team 2 - DFG, Einstein Stiftung Berlin)

- gave an insight into the measures with which the [DFG](#) tries to help junior scholars in its funding lines.

Other topics where ongoing and new offers of [Dahlem Leadership Academy](#), [TU Department II](#) and [Centre for Scientific Continuing Education and Cooperation \(ZEWK\)](#) for people looking for further training and other support services within the TU Berlin for people in need due to the Pandemic.

Participants contributed to a lively discussion of the topic and Q&A session via Video and Chat. Some of the key questions and issues are summarized below:

- measures like reduction of work time and childcare are welcomed by junior scholars employed by the TU Berlin, but these often just shift the workload to a later date and do not help freeing time to catch up on their research being delayed due to the pandemic.
 - TU Berlin is currently examining the possibility of offering similar corona support measures (funded by the BUA) as in 2020 again this year. No final statement can be made about this at present.
- With regard to the corona response of the DFG, what measures are other research partners preparing.
 - since every research partner works independently, there are no general measures one can rely on.
 - Junior researchers should make use of the consulting institutions, like the research service of TU Berlin, to work out a common approach.

- Some projects are at the end of the running funding period and do not know if they will be renewed or phased out. What should they pay attention to?
 - Projects, that phase out are in general eligible to apply for a financing extension.
- should junior scholars, not near the end of their funding period or employment, wait to apply for a financing extension?
 - Junior scholars should apply as soon as the necessity for an extension is apparent, as it offers planning security for everyone involved.
 - The department heads should be the first point of contact to plan your actions.

Collection of links

[Department II - Family Services Office](#)

[Department II – Health Management](#)

[Proofreading Service](#)

[Crisis telephone for employees of the TU Berlin](#)

[Dahlem Leadership Academy](#)

[Centre for Scientific Continuing Education and Cooperation \(ZEWK\)](#)

[Department V Research Service](#)

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