

## Summary minutes

### 4th Round Table for the Advancement of Junior Scholars at TU Berlin, 7 December 2018

#### Postdoctoral researchers with university-funded or third-party funded (TPF) positions

The TU-DOC Office for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Services and vice president for strategic development, junior scholars and teacher education, Professor Dr. Angela Ittel held five round tables in the winter semester 2018/19, each aimed at specific target groups.

The Round Tables are part of the preparations for implementing the Strategy for the Advancement of Junior Scholars at TU Berlin, which was passed by the Academic Senate in July 2018. The strategy aims to open a dialog with target groups involved in the advancement of junior scholars and promote the discussion and development of proposals and measures in this area.

Throughout the round table events, all participants made contributions to an intensive discussion covering many topics related to the advancement of junior scholars at TU Berlin, which are described in the following summary:

- **Communication:** Many postdoctoral researchers would like to receive information more frequently on services for junior scholars at TU Berlin.
- **Teaching:** Some participants reported that teaching responsibilities are currently set too high.
- **Legal frameworks and dependency:** Greater independence in administrative processes.
- **Alternative career paths:** In particular, scholars in the humanities, education and social sciences want to be informed and advised on alternative, non-academic career options at an earlier stage and in a more targeted manner.
- **Own research profile:** Scholars would welcome advice on developing and planning their own research profile to meet future research needs.
- **Strengthening own work in research, teaching and academic self-administration:** Targeted incentives such as awards for junior scholars or thank-you letters for obtaining third-party funds increase motivation and visibility.
- **Skills and competence profiles:** It was noted that the division into R2/R3 career phases made in the Strategy for the Advancement of Junior Scholars is not always differentiated in meaningful ways.
- **Own research / freedom in research:** Scholars often report that there is little (working time) for their own research.
- **Legal framework / teaching responsibilities for third-party funded positions (TPF):** It was reported that TPF providers often exclude teaching responsibilities or institutes do not include such duties due to increases in teaching capacity.
- **Funding/support for acquiring TPF:** An extension to funding measures for postdoctoral researchers at TU Berlin applying for TPF was requested.
- **Support for stays abroad:** Financial support for projects and clarification of the legal framework is desired.
- **Contacts for postdoctoral researchers:** A greater number of contacts for junior scholars at the central level was requested.

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