

Summary minutes

5th Round Table for the Advancement of Junior Scholars at TU Berlin, 18 December 2018

Doctoral candidates with positions funded by the university.

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 preparation 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 contributed 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 doctoral candidates would like to receive information more frequently on services for junior scholars at TU Berlin.
- **Onboarding:** An initial information package (including information in English) with relevant information for starting employment or doctoral research would be useful.
- **Teaching:** Teaching guidelines similar to efforts developed by specific academic chairs covering important aspects of teaching administration would be useful.
- **Networking:** Doctoral candidates would welcome more networking opportunities (including interdisciplinary networking) among themselves.
- **Identifying research topics:** Professional exchange within interdisciplinary doctoral research colloquia would be beneficial for identifying research topics; doctoral candidates are already organizing such exchange themselves.
- **Exposé:** If an exposé is mandatory for the registration of doctoral research projects, this can significantly delay the registration process. Greater support in preparing exposés is desired.
- **Stays abroad:** Doctoral candidates employed as research associates requested greater support in the planning and integration of stays abroad during the doctoral phase.
- **Career orientation:** Opportunities would be welcomed to explore career opportunities within and outside academic research in advanced phases of doctoral research/employment at TU Berlin. This also includes a request for contact with alumni, specifically former doctoral candidates within the candidate's own subject.

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