

## Summary minutes

14th Round Table for the Advancement of Junior Scholars at TU Berlin, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Topic: Berlin University Alliance (BUA) | Support and Advising Structures for Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs**

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 14th round table on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021, which was conducted via ZOOM, focused on:

### **Berlin University Alliance (BUA) | Support and Advising Structures for Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs**

A presentation of the structure, tasks and offers of the [Center for Junior Scholars](#) was followed by an introduction to the [Berlin University Alliance \(BUA\)](#) and its goals. Thereafter, Søren Salomo, Speaker of the BUA Steering Committee “Promoting Talent”, introduced the offers and goals of the BUA especially for Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs within the framework of the [Objective Promoting Talent](#). Nicole Torjus of the [ZEWK](#) subsequently presented the offers and support services in the area of the [BUA Graduate Studies Support Program](#).

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

- Is there a website with all the BUA course offers?
  - A BUA website, which will combine offers from all institutions, will be launched soon.
- Can I mix the courses?
  - Yes, that’s the idea behind the BUA offers, mixing is possible and welcome.
- Can Postdocs participate in the courses for Doctoral Candidates?
  - Yes, they can, if there are places still available.
- Does one have to be inscribed at TU Berlin (or the other universities) to participate?
  - No, it is not necessary as long as you are associated with one of the BUA member universities.
- In recognition of the challenge, organizational structures of German universities pose for international doctoral candidates, is there an offer that helps Doctoral Candidates to find peers or to match them with Doctoral Candidates in similar circumstances?
  - There are plans to further improve “onboarding”-offers. One example is the [Young Academics Network \(YAN\)](#). Offers will be shared in the coming months.
- What BUA offers exist for the advancement of careers after completing the Doctorate?
  - The BUA will soon be offering Junior Research Groups and Postdoctoral Career Awards (Sabbaticals)
  - ZEWK will offer a leadership certificate together with the YAN.
  - Additional information: The 16<sup>th</sup> Round Table (17<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 14:00 – 15:30, ZOOM) for Junior Scholars will focus on Post-Doc-Opportunities in the BUA framework.

In view of the challenges posed to junior scholars and scientific community as a whole by the COVID-19-pandemic, TU Berlin will host an additional 15<sup>th</sup> Round Table for Junior Scholars on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (11:30 to 13:00) to continue addressing this issue.

#### Collection of links

[Young Academics Network \(YAN\)](#)

[ZEWK Weiterbildungsangebot für Promovierende](#)

[BUA Objective 4: Promoting Talent](#)

[BUA Graduate Studies Support Program](#)

#### Contact:

***TU Berlin Center for Junior Scholars (TUB-CJS)***

[info@cjs.tu-berlin.de](mailto:info@cjs.tu-berlin.de)

+49 30 314 29622

+49 30 314 12329622

Fraunhoferstr. 33-36, FH 5-5

10587 Berlin