

Circle U. Academic Chair Programme – Call for Applications for Academic Chairs

Key Facts

Humboldt-Universität seeks **5 Academic Chairs** who further Circle U. through their initiatives. Chairs will be enabled to dedicate 20% of their time to Circle U and will receive additional resources for their activities.

Application Deadline: 20. June 2021

Chairs appointed: July 2021 – July 2023

The role of the Academic Chairs is to:

- Develop and lead challenge-based and inter-disciplinary projects across Circle U.
- Link education and research within and across disciplines.
- Engage students to take an active role in knowledge creation and socially-engaged research.
- Represent and champion Circle U. internally, nationally and internationally, as well as with external stakeholders.
- Stimulate new models of academic collaboration and partnership, and share these across Circle U.

Candidates are invited to submit a **2-page CV and letter of intent, with an indicative (1-2 page) proposal** for a project.

We will offer an info session on the Chair Programme on **May 5th from 2-3:30**. In this session we will provide more information on the selection process and the resources that the Chairs will receive for their initiatives. No registration is necessary.

You can join the session here:

<https://hu-berlin.zoom.us/j/66185118246>

Contact: Dr. Christin Bohnke (christin.bohnke@hu-berlin.de)

What is an Academic Chair?

Academic Chairs will be **appointed from the academic, research and teaching staff of each of the partner universities**. We are looking for people who can bring **exciting and innovative ideas, an interdisciplinary profile**, and a strong commitment to linking education and research to foster transformative impact on society. Together, we support an inclusive culture and diversity for our staff and students. We are committed to encouraging further growth from diverse groups, and we are committed to ensuring that the Academic Chair Academy includes people of all abilities and under-represented groups. **We are seeking Chairs at all career stages.**

The Academic Chairs will establish the new Academic Chair Programme at the heart of Circle U.'s joint infrastructure, designed to ensure strong and sustainable connections across the alliance.

This is an exciting and unique opportunity. Academic Chairs will have the chance **to test new and innovative ideas**, to **establish strong links to leading research environments** at some of the most prestigious European universities, and to be at the forefront of new developments in socially-engaged research and education.

The Academic Chairs are at the beating heart of Circle U. They will tie our seven universities together, connect Circle U. to society in innovative and meaningful ways. **Chairs will dedicate 20% of their working time to the development of activities in Student-Led Sustainable Innovation, Knowledge Hubs, the Open School of Public Governance and the Think and Do Tank.**

Academic Chairs will be located at their 'home' university, but will be expected also to spend time at other Circle U. partner universities, if possible, and to attend meetings in order to facilitate collaboration, communication and dissemination.

The Academic Chairs will ensure **strong and sustainable connections across our seven universities**, between research and teaching, between students and staff, and between universities and society. **Chairs will have access to seed funding** to support the development of innovative research-based education projects and will have access to funding to support travel.

How to apply

Potential candidates are invited to submit a **2-page CV and letter of intent, with an indicative (1-2 page) proposal** for a project that relates to the main aims and objectives of one of the Work Packages listed above. This should include:

- the main challenges and objectives addressed in the project.
- research and education activities involved in the implementation of the project and how these will involve non-academic partners and engage students.
- a plan for sharing and involvement of partner universities.

Academic Chairs are expected to have excellent communication skills in English, both oral and written. Proficiency in other European languages used by the Circle U. partners will be an advantage.

Please send your application in one PDF file and with the subject line "Application Chair Programme + Name" to christin.bohnke@hu-berlin.de

The application will be reviewed by a committee internal to Humboldt-Universität.

Deadline for applications: 20. June 2021
Academic Chairs will be appointed in July 2021.

How the Academic Chairs connect to the Work Packages in Circle U.

Each university will appoint 5 Chairs, one for WP4, 3 for WP5 (ideally, one per Knowledge Hub, and also contributing to the Open School of Public Governance) and one for WP6. The Academic Chair Programme is a central feature of Circle U.'s joint infrastructure. Academic Chairs will work in partnership, and be supported by, the respective Work Package Leads and Working Groups, comprising an interdisciplinary and intersectoral team of academics, professional services and student representatives. Each of the three Work Packages (4, 5 and 6) will have at its centre a network of Academic Chairs, as follows:

Student-led Sustainable Innovation (WP4)

- One network of 7 Chairs, one to represent each university.
- Chairs will either be academics or external stakeholders with expertise in innovation or interesting experiences to share with students.
- Chairs will be expected to empower students by adopting innovative pedagogical approaches and entrepreneurial learning, including developing new programmes on sustainable innovation and entrepreneurship.

Societally Engaged Education and Research (WP5)

- Three networks of 21 Chairs, three from each university.
- Chairs will be academics with expertise in one of the three priority areas (Climate, Democracy, Global Health).
- Chairs will be involved in the development of the three interdisciplinary Knowledge Hubs (Climate, Democracy, Global Health) and in the Open Circle U. School of Public Governance, work across disciplines to engage students in research and education to solve 'real-life' societal challenges, and contribute to the creation of interdisciplinary summer schools and participate in annual seminars for each thematic area.

Think and Do tank on the Future of Higher Education (WP6)

- One network of 7 Chairs, one from each university.
- Chairs will be involved in shaping the future of the European Education Area.
- Chairs will play a key role in the development of new approaches to teaching and learning, including the development of pilots that transform curricula and teaching methods at universities, especially involving digital solutions and multilingualism.

Please see our website for more detailed descriptions of the different Work Packages:

<https://www.international.hu-berlin.de/de/internationales-profil/strategische-partnerschaften-der-hu-berlin/Circle%20U>

About Circle U.

Circle U. is an inclusive, research-intensive and interdisciplinary European university alliance between Aarhus University (Denmark), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany), King's College London (United Kingdom), Université de Paris (France), the University of Belgrade (Serbia), UCLouvain (Belgium) and the University of Oslo (Norway). Our mission is to empower our students and staff to mobilize knowledge for impact in order to make the world a better place. For more information, see: <https://www.circle-u.eu/>