

WINS International Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme

The WINS International Postdoctoral Fellowship programme supports excellent female postdoctoral fellows from abroad by giving them an opportunity to come to Berlin for a research stay and thus increase their visibility and expand their scientific network. Even more, the programme aims to boost the scientific career of postdoctoral researchers at the Faculty for Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the HU Berlin by providing them with the opportunity to be host of a visiting fellow and thus initiate a new international collaboration project, an important step towards establishing themselves as independent researchers.

Over the past three years, the programme has welcomed 14 exceptional postdoctoral fellows from 9 countries, 5 continents and very diverse disciplines. All of them experienced a big impact of the fellowship on their careers.



The 2024 fellows at the “Future WINS” interdisciplinary conference (from left to right):

Dr Shaswati Mandal (Chemistry),
Dr Giorgia Greco (Physics),
Dr Monika (Mathematics),
Dr Marianna D’Amato (Physics).

Dr Sofia Pazzagli (HU, Department of Physics, Host in 2022):

“Hosting a WINS Fellow was an incredible opportunity for me to grow professionally and receive support and inspiration for my own research. The fellow's arrival brought a breath of fresh air to our group, new perspectives and innovative ideas, and helped increase diversity and representation in our research area. It was a success on every level!”

What are the benefits for the host?

It is a unique feature of the programme that postdoctoral researchers the Faculty for Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the HU Berlin can be in the leading position for choosing a fellow, inviting and hosting her for a research stay, thus creating an opportunity for a new collaboration.

- **International Collaboration:** By inviting a female postdoctoral fellow from abroad, the hosts open the doors to international collaboration, bringing fresh perspectives and global experiences to their research projects, which are crucial for a successful scientific career.
- **Academic Enrichment:** The research of the host will benefit from the diverse knowledge and expertise the invited fellow brings, potentially leading to innovative research, joint grant proposals, and high-impact publications.

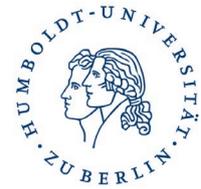
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- **Cultural Exchange:** Hosting an international fellow promotes cultural exchange and fosters an inclusive, international academic environment within the hosting research team.
- **Experience in acquisition of third-party funding:** The host learns how to prepare an application and manage a project in coordination with the fellow, which is an invaluable experience for future international grants and fellowship applications.



The 2022 fellows during a campus tour (from left to right):

Dr Shubhangi Srivastava (Geography),
 Dr Deborah Natumanya (Computer sciences),
 Dr Alaka Panda (Physics),
 Dr Sara Nocentini (Physics),
 Dr Katrin Blöndal (Chemistry).

Dr Nina Stiesdal (Fellow, 2023): “I was extremely happy to have been part of the WINS International Postdoctoral Fellowship programme. Meeting the other fellows and the organizers was very inspiring. The discussions we had during our meetings made me realize how much experimental physics lacks diversity. Additionally, it made me understand that I have been underestimating the importance of the discussion of academic life across different disciplines.”

What are the benefits for the fellow?

The programme offers a great opportunity to come to Berlin for a research stay of 4 to 6 weeks in order to start a new project with the hosting lab or write a joint publication.

- **Financial Support:** The programme offers a stipend of €4,000 to cover fully the travel and living expenses of the invited fellow.
- **Networking Opportunities:** The invited fellow will have access to joint colloquiums, seminars, and events at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, further expanding her professional network and research opportunities.
- **Administrative Support:** The PostDoc Center Adlershof supports the whole process and helps with all questions and administrative hurdles before, during and after the research stay.
- **Accompanying Programme:** During the research stay, fellows benefit from participating in different formal and informal events and opportunities to connect to the other fellows and to researchers from the university.
- **Alumnae Network:** Every fellow automatically becomes a member of the growing alumnae network of the programme and benefits from connecting to the other alumnae.

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Who is eligible to apply?

All scientists holding a PhD (postdocs, group leaders, professors) and working at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural sciences at the HU Berlin can submit an application as hosts. Fellows can be female postdocs from abroad.

How to apply?

The call is open every year in spring, please check the PDCA [website](#) to find more information about the application process and the current deadlines.

What else?

The programme benefits from the kind support of the Berliner Chancengleichheitsprogramm, the Einstein Stiftung Berlin and the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. It is coordinated by the PostDoc Center Adlershof (PDCA) at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

If you have any further questions regarding the programme, feel free to reach out to the coordinator Dr Petya Jordan: postdoc-center-adlershof.mnf@hu-berlin.de.



Dr Shaswati Mandal (Fellow, 2024): “Engaging with local scholars and attending relevant events (WINS conference and seminar talks) enriched my academic perspective and provided valuable networking opportunities. Beyond research, immersing myself in Berlin's vibrant culture and history added a unique dimension to the experience, enhancing both my professional and personal growth. This stay was instrumental in advancing my project and broadening my horizons.”

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