

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Q-TEAMS

*** APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER SEMESTER 2018 ACCEPTED UNTIL 31 OCTOBER 2017 ***

The Q-Teams are part of a range of new teaching formats (cf. HU Q-Programme) aimed at creating space for researched-based learning, and opportunities for students to participate in current research projects that are not already represented or reflected in the curriculum. The Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin successfully bid for funding from the Quality Pact for Teaching, a program aimed at improving the overall quality of teaching and learning in German Higher Education.

What is a Q-Team?

Q-Teams are seminars in the format of research-based learning ("Forschendes Lernen" ¹), initiated by junior researchers (usually doctoral students or post-docs). The role of these Q-Team leaders is to initiate the project, select the participants and inform, supervise, coordinate, and support the team of students throughout the research process. In exchange, they gain experience in teaching and sharing knowledge, skills and research experience in the context of leading a research team. Ideally, discussions in the Q-Team will also inspire and challenge their own research.

Q-Team leaders receive a supplementary teaching contract of €910 for the summer semester from the bologna.lab. In particular circumstances, it may be possible to convert the teaching contract into material support (in line with the guidelines for funding laid down by the German Ministry for Education and Research). The bologna.lab offers a didactical training on research-based learning from concept to realization, which is free of charge for all Q-Team leaders (two one-day and two half-day workshops). To apply, Q-Team leaders have to find an institute/department at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin prepared to host the Q-Team. A professor in the institute must agree to the Q-Team taking place and its support from the institute (e.g. with rooms, equipment, etc.).

Q-Teams consist of a minimum of 5, usually up to 10 students who should independently (individually or as a team) carry out work on a particular aspect of the Q-Team leaders' current research project. The aim is for them to gain initial experiences in a research context and in collaborative team work. For their participation in the project, the students may receive study credits (ECTS). Ideally, the Q-Team should be open to Bachelor and Master students from different disciplines, thus providing an interdisciplinary perspective on the topic.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for junior researchers (doctoral students or post docs) interested in opening a particular aspect of their research project to collaborative work with a team of student researchers. Researchers from all disciplines, especially scholarship holders or employees at research institutes may apply. Research assistants employed by Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin are only eligible for supplementary teaching contracts if the existing contract does not include any teaching.

Q-Teams can be attached to the following types of research:

- Research projects at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin or at another University (incl. SFBs, excellence clusters, etc.),
- Research projects based at research institutes outside a University,
- Individual research by postdocs and doctoral students, as long as there is a clear distinction between the dissertation/publication topic and the (sub-)questions handed over to the Q-Team.

¹ See our guide to research-based learning (English translation forthcoming): https://www.researchgate.net/publication/308047837_Forschendes_Lernen_im_Seminar_Ein_Leitfaden_fur_Lehrende

What is the role of the Q-Team leaders?

The junior researchers must initiate the project and see it through to its completion. This involves:

- **Preparation:** Getting in touch and negotiating an agreement with the respective faculty or department at HU; where you may find disciplinary exchange, interested students and organisational support for your Q-Team - e.g. regarding study credits for the participants, teaching rooms, inclusion of the Q-Team in AGNES, the HU's online lecture inventory, etc. If you are planning to run the Q-Team in English or a language other than German, please check the hosting department's position on this.
Note: The bologna.lab's contract does not count towards the institute's overall teaching capacity (it is "kapazitätsneutral").
- **Implementation:** Supervising and supporting the student researchers throughout the research process; guidance in subject related and methodological issues; supporting the students in finding and producing a suitable format for presenting the research results.
- **Follow-up processing:** reflection and feedback on the research process, the realisation of research based learning and the cooperation with the students.

What do you have to submit with the application?

1. **A Project Proposal** (max. 3 pages) covering the following points:
 - ✓ **The research project and the particular question(s) the Q-Team will be working on:** what research project will the Q-Team be linked with? What is the title of the proposed Q-Team? Please make it clear where the links *and distinctions* lie between your own research and the Q-Team's research question (esp. relevant for doctoral students applying with a topic related to their dissertation). Be advised that your application will be read by an interdisciplinary committee.
 - ✓ **Time schedule:** how will you organise and manage the project? What steps and milestones have you planned? Since the Q-Team is a research-based learning seminar, the schedule should include not only time for discussing the research question and informing students about relevant content and methodologies but also enough time for the students to conduct their own research and reflect on the research process.
 - ✓ **Target group:** whom is your project aimed at, who might be interested in it? What skills or subject knowledge do you expect your student researchers to bring to the project? Is the Q-Team open to Bachelor and/or Master students?
 - ✓ **Final product:** what results or findings do you expect/hope for? How will the outcomes of the project be documented and presented (e.g. project report, scientific article, presentation, poster, exhibition, film, webpage, blog,...)?
 - ✓ **Personal Motivation:** why do you want to offer a Q-Team?
2. **Brief Academic CV** (table, max. 2 pages)
3. **Completed Application Form** ("Formblatt")
 - ✓ Information on you as the applicant and on the HU department/institute that will host your Q-Team.

Do you have further questions?

We are happy to discuss any queries via e-mail or on the phone - or at the

Info meeting Wednesday, 11 October 2017, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Please **RSVP** until 9 October 2017 by sending us an e-mail: qbologna@hu-berlin.de

Where and when do you have to hand in the application?

The deadline is **31 October 2017**.

You may send the application by mail or e-mail (preferably in one pdf document).

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