

NEWSLETTER FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES AND POSTDOCS

FEBRUARY 2026 | ENGLISH VERSION



Dear doctoral candidates and postdocs,

Have you heard of [COLOURS](#) yet?

COLOURS is a **European university alliance** in which UPB has joined forces with eight partner universities from across Europe. For doctoral researchers and postdocs, this opens up a wide range of opportunities – from networking and research stays abroad to joint workshops and events, as well as prospects for international research collaborations or even binational doctoral degrees.

Curious? Then take the opportunity in March to get to know COLOURS better. Two Doctoral Days will be taking place: one [in France focusing on entrepreneurship](#), and one [in Spain with a focus on networking for doctoral researchers](#).

To take part in the Doctoral Days, you can apply for travel funding through COLOURS ([link here](#)).

Plus, as always there are going to be some exciting **interdisciplinary courses and events** for you these coming months. Check out the **programme!**

All the best from the Jenny Aloni Centre for Early Career Researchers,

Alexandra & Henriette

CURRENT COURSES & EVENTS

Date	Title
03.02.2026	PhD Lunch: Mental health
05.02.2026	Research Data Management - Electronic Lab Notebooks, eLabFTW
16.02.2026	Deutsch Intensivwoche - Redezeit B1/B2
12.-13.03.2026	German Postdoc Network Conference Munich
11.-13.03.2026	"Doctinnov': Entrepreneurship as a PhD Student" in Le Mans, France [COLOURS]
19.03.2026	UCLM Doctoral Day in Ciudad Real, Spain [COLOURS]
13.04.2026	Academic Careers in Germany
17.06.2026	How to get into Germany's non-academic job market!

➔ [To the complete qualification programme](#)

CURRENT CALLS

Deadline	Call	Target group(s)
02.02.2026	<u>UPB Doctoral Scholarships</u> The University Executive Board awards doctoral and final-stage doctoral scholarships to support outstanding early-career researchers at Paderborn University, as well as a scholarship for a research project in the field of gender studies. Details of the eligibility and award regulations, along with further information, can be found on the website of the Committee for Research and Junior Academics.	(Prospective) Doctoral Candidates
10.02.2026	<u>Doctinnov' in Le Mans, France (travel reimbursement)</u> Le Mans University is hosting "Doctinnov'", an event designed to help PhD students explore how their research can spark new ideas, projects, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Whether you're curious about entrepreneurship, innovation, or collaborative research, this is your chance to experience hands-on workshops, to network with peers and mentors, and find inspiration. To apply for travel reimbursement, please use the forms indicated at "CoLabs in a Partner Region" on the COLOURS website linked above.	Doctoral Candidates
15.02.2026	<u>„Einblick!": Peer Mentoring Programme for Female Students Interested in Doing a Doctorate</u> The peer mentoring programme offers prospective female graduates the opportunity to exchange ideas at an early stage with other female students about the option of pursuing a doctorate. These discussions are supported by a doctoral researcher, who provides practical advice and strategies to help with decision-making and with finding a pathway into academia. Together, participants discuss initial possible steps towards doctoral study. In addition to small-group meetings, the programme also includes a range of events and workshops (e.g. on funding opportunities, application strategies and identifying a research topic). If you know any female students who might be interested in the programme, please do let them know!	Prospective Female Doctoral Candidates
22.02.2026	<u>Junior Professional Officer Programme of the Office for Management Staff to International Organisations</u> The German Federal Government is currently advertising 24 Junior Professional Officer (JPO) positions across more than 21 different international organisations. These posts form part of the Federal Government's early-career development programme and offer an entry route into careers within international organisations. The positions are regular employment contracts with the United Nations, with a minimum duration of two years. Applicants should be university graduates (Master's degree or equivalent) of German nationality with two to four years of relevant professional experience.	
15.03.2026	<u>Junior Research Groups on Global Change: Innovative Methods in Climate Modelling (BMFTR)</u> Faster and more accurate climate models are crucial for making climate mitigation and adaptation efforts more effective. To this end, the BMFTR is promoting the use of innovative methods based on artificial intelligence and is supporting early-career scientific research groups. If you are interested in submitting an application, the Research Department will be happy to advise you.	Postdocs

15.04.2026

BioKreativ – Creative young talent conducts research for the bioeconomy (BMFTR)

The key social challenges of our time include securing global food supplies, sustainable raw material and energy supplies, and protecting the climate and the environment. With its National Bioeconomy Strategy, the German government is promoting the transformation to a more resource-efficient, circular economy in which young scientists are to develop innovative, sustainable bioeconomic applications for science and industry. If you are interested in submitting an application, the [Research Department](#) will be happy to advise you.

Postdocs

29.04.2026

Social-ecological junior research groups for sustainable and resilient urban-rural regions (BMFTR)

As part of FONA and the Future Strategy for Research and Innovation, the BMFTR provides funding for up to five years to young scientists who wish to qualify in the field of social sustainability research and the management of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research groups on urban-rural regions. If you are interested in submitting an application, the [Research Department](#) will be happy to advise you.

Postdocs

29.04.2026

Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary junior research groups in socio-ecological research (BMFTR)

Within the framework programme "Research for Sustainable Development" (FONA3), the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space intends to support young scientists who wish to qualify in the field of social sustainability research or the management of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research groups. If you are interested in submitting an application, the [Research Department](#) will be happy to advise you.

Postdocs

➔ *Further calls can be found in the [FIT newsletter](#).*

[You can unsubscribe from the newsletter here.](#)

Questions or suggestions? Feel free to contact us!
Dr Henriette-Juliane Seeliger & Dr Alexandra Wiebke

Jenny Aloni Centre for Early Career Researchers
Paderborn University
Warburger Str. 100
33098 Paderborn

e-mail: EarlyCareer@upb.de

