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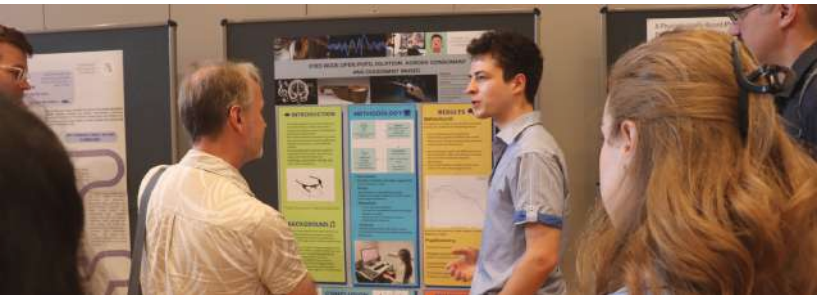

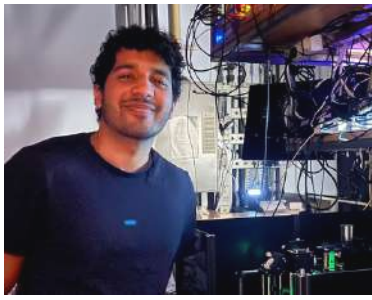

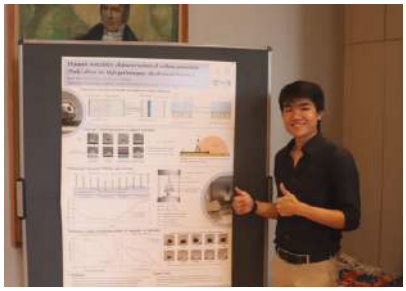


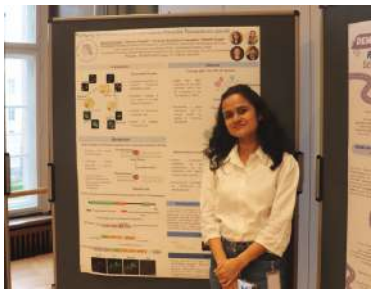


Humboldt Internship Program

Report 2025

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin | International Department | Humboldt International Campus
Unter den Linden 6 | 10099 Berlin

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Introduction

The Humboldt Internship Program (HIP) 2025 once again demonstrated the strength of hands-on academic exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU).

Bringing together research projects and start-ups from a wide range of fields, the program attracted talented students from across the globe and from diverse academic backgrounds. This disciplinary width - spanning fundamental research to entrepreneurial innovation - continues to be one of the program's defining characteristics and core strengths.

This report covers both the summer internship program for individual visiting students and the customized fall 2025 program designed for a student cohort from Brown University. In the latter format, students combined academic coursework with their internships, creating an integrated experience that linked classroom learning with direct research and start-up engagement.

Throughout their program participation, participants were embedded directly in their host environments, contributing to ongoing research initiatives at HU and start-up developments at Humboldt Innovation. Twenty-five of the students received a program scholarship funded by Santander Bank.

We are particularly pleased to observe how meaningfully students benefit from the experience - not only in terms of academic and professional development, but also through the relationships they build. Many connections between students and their supervising researchers or founders continue well beyond the official program period, developing into ongoing collaborations, mentorships, and future opportunities.

We hope you enjoy reading about the 2025 students and the inspiring projects that shaped this year's program.

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Reflection, Dialogue, and Celebration: Workplace Visits and Program Event

Two core features of the Humboldt Internship Program are the mid-term workplace visits and the program event on July 7, both of which offer structured opportunities for reflection, exchange, and professional development.

Together, the workplace visits and the final event frame the internship period with intentional moments of dialogue and reflection – strengthening individual experiences while reinforcing the collaborative spirit that defines the Humboldt Internship Program.

Workplace Visits

The workplace visits take place halfway through each internship and serve as a structured mid-term evaluation. Their purpose is to assess how the internship is progressing and to identify at an early stage whether any adjustments are needed to ensure a positive and productive experience for both the student and the host organization.

During the visit, students are invited to present and reflect on their current tasks, which also encourages them to explain their work in a clear and accessible manner. Broader topics such as integration into the team, learning progress, well-being, and professional development are also addressed. In parallel, a separate conversation with the supervisor provides insight into the student's performance and the overall collaboration.

Bringing together these perspectives allows for timely adjustments where necessary and contributes to the continuous refinement of the program.

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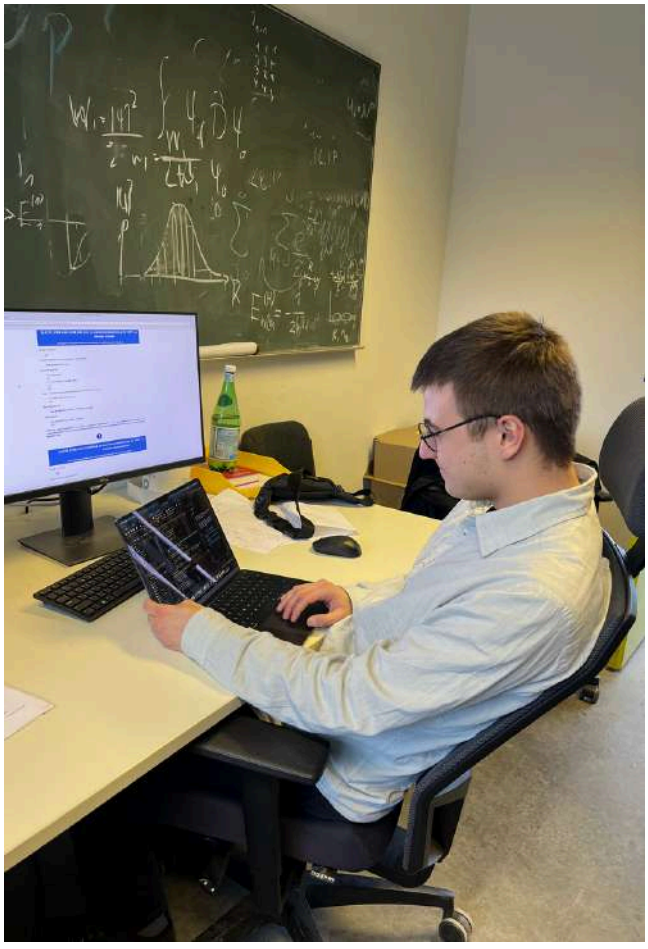
We visited our HIP student Gökay Günay at his workplace.

The following interview offers a closer look at one of this year's workplace visits and illustrates how these mid-term meetings unfold in practice. Through the perspectives shared by the student and the supervisor, readers gain insight into the day-to-day collaboration, the learning process, and the role the visit plays in reflecting on progress, addressing challenges, and strengthening the overall internship experience.

- **Tell me about your research/project! What are you doing here?**

G.G.: Originally a physics engineering student, I am now doing an internship on hard vision molecules, exploring different methods and energy levels. I am currently busy writing a report based on my observations of the outcomes. My main equipment is my office computer and personal laptop. I primarily work with code and various datasets, analyzing and comparing the results accordingly.



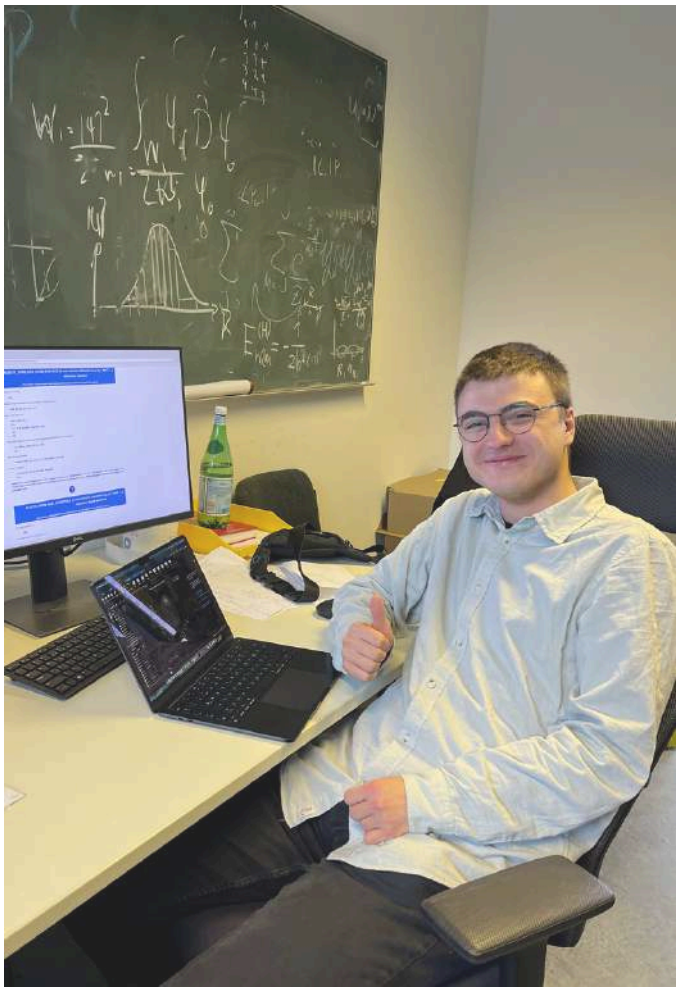
- **What does your routine look like?**

G.G.: A regular day usually takes place between my apartment and office. I have two colleagues with whom I go to the Mensa for lunch every day. I have started going to bed very early since starting my internship, partly because I get tired after long working hours and partly because it gets dark early these days [He laughs while mentioning this].

- **What do you like to do around the city?**

G.G.: The gray weather was a bit shocking but also enjoy it sometimes (laughs). I should mention that the air quality in Berlin is relatively better than in Istanbul. Since I live and work far from the city center and don't enjoy traveling much, I am not in the center often. I have visited Checkpoint Charlie with a friend and the state library once. Overall, I like Berlin, especially the architecture.

- **How do you like working here? Is everything going well so far? How do you like the work environment?**



G.G.: I really like my office and was even a bit surprised to have one. I share the office with a colleague, and we get along well. Another colleague works in the room next door. I appreciate my supervisor and colleagues, who are masters and PhD students. They make me feel comfortable asking "stupid" questions when I am unsure. I am learning new tasks directly from them. I have previously worked in the private sector in my home country. Office-wise, it feels similar, but here I feel more supervised and encouraged to ask questions, which I appreciate. I also like the flexibility to manage my own tasks.

- **How has the work challenged you? What have you accomplished here (personal growth, contributions to the research)?**

G.G.: I have been working for three weeks and feel I am learning a lot. I have always been good at math and physics but hadn't worked much with numerical analysis in this context before. There are many combinations and parameters I haven't used before, which I find challenging. However, I enjoy learning new things and am adapting quickly.

- **What do you think about the preparation Amrei did with you in March and April, and the Welcome Session at the beginning of the internship? Now that you're here, do you feel that you were well prepared?**

G.G.: I found the preparation and Welcome Sessions very helpful, as they allowed me to ask any questions I had before starting.

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Student Research in Practice

The joint program event on July 7 marked the collective culmination of the internship experience. Students, researchers, founders, and university representatives came together to reflect on the summer and share the outcomes of their work.

Prof. Dr. Christoph Schneider, then Vice President for Research, opened the event with a welcome speech. The presentations highlighted the program's academic and professional diversity, ranging from laboratory-based research and data analysis to interdisciplinary initiatives and start-up projects. A panel discussion further emphasized that the value of the internship extends beyond measurable outputs: participants spoke about mutual learning, new perspectives, and the experience of contributing meaningfully to ongoing research and innovation processes.

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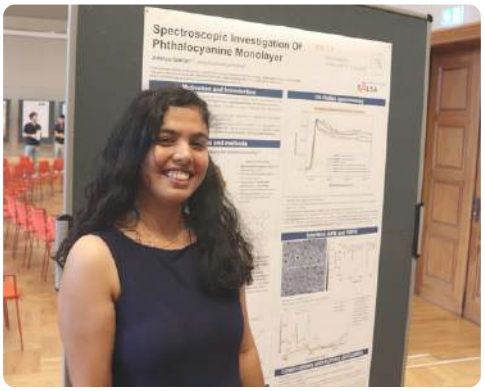

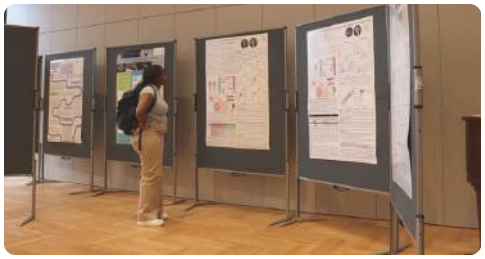

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Discovering Berlin Together:

Cultural Program and Community Activities

In addition to their professional placements, all HIP participants are invited to join a rich cultural program organized in collaboration with the HUWISU summer school. Throughout the summer, students can take part in numerous weekly events free of charge, ranging from city tours and museum visits to social gatherings and cultural excursions.

These activities create valuable opportunities to meet students from other programs of the Humboldt International Campus, build friendships, and become part of a broader international community at Humboldt-Universität. At the same time, they offer a structured framework for cultural immersion - enabling participants to learn more about Berlin, German history and society, and the local academic environment.

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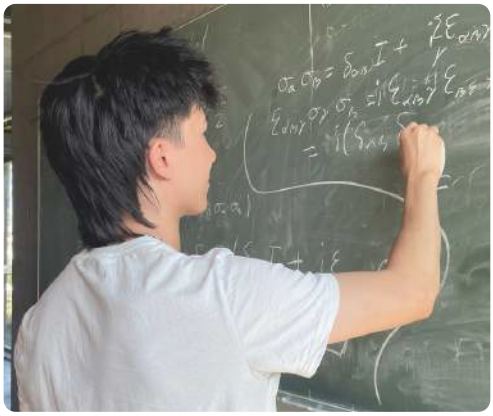



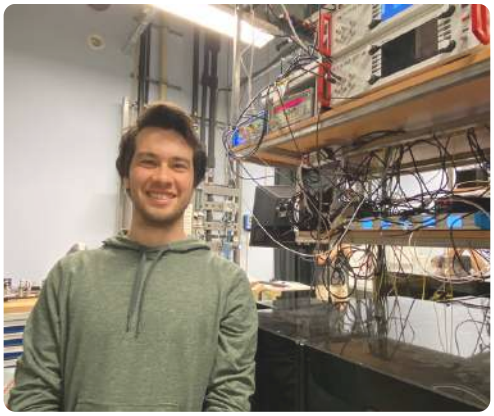


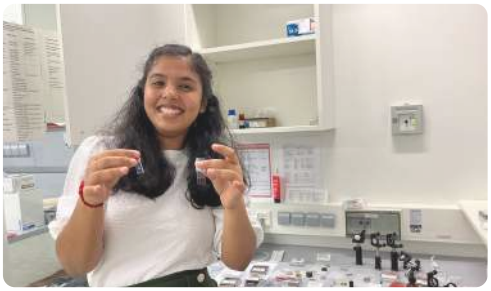

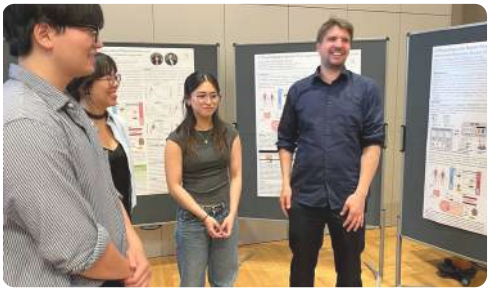





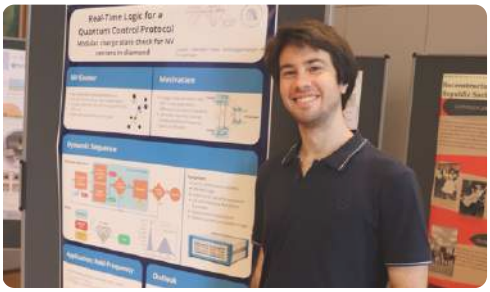

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Projects 2025

The following page provides an overview of all research groups and start-up teams that participated in the 2025 Humboldt Internship Program.
We are deeply grateful to all supervisors, researchers, founders, and team members who welcomed our students into their work environments. Through their mentorship, guidance, and commitment, they created meaningful learning experiences and made the program possible in its current form.

	Project	Supervisor
Biology	CT-Based Fossil Vertebrate Anatomy	Prof. Dr. Jörg Fröbisch
	Computational Modeling of Drug Detoxification – A Systems Medicine Approach	Dr. Matthias König
	Purifying the Powerhouse of the Human Parasite Toxoplasma gondii	Prof. Dr. Christian Schmitz-Linneweber, Dr. Nishith Gupta
Chemistry	Atmospherically Relevant Nanoparticles	Dr. Wolfgang Christen
	Exploration of Wetting and Capillary Transport Phenomena of Alkali Metals for High-Performance Semi-Solid Alkali-Metal Batteries	Dr. Gustav Graeber, Naiyu Qi
Physics	Optical Limiting of Macromolecules: Theory and Experiments	Prof. Dr. Zsuzsanna Heiner, Prof. Dr. Caterina Cocchi
	Molecular effects entering the analysis of the Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino-Mass Experiment (KATRIN)	Prof. Dr. Alejandro Saenz
	Quantum-Computer Algorithms	Prof. Dr. Alejandro Saenz, Dr. Tom Weber

Projects 2025

	Project	Supervisor
Physics	Theory of Rydberg Wave Packets Immersed in Ultracold Quantum Gases	Prof. Dr. Alejandro Saenz
	Real-time Logic for a Quantum Control Protocol	Kilian Unterguggenberger, Prof. Dr.Tim Schröder
Music and Media	Critical Media, Computing and Commoning	Prof. Dr. Shintaro Miyazaki
	Eyes Wide Open: Studying the Effects of Harmonic Consonance and Dissonance on Pupil Dilation	Dr. George Athanasopoulos, Dr. Mats Küssner
	Second World Music: Latin America, East Germany, and the Sonic Circuitry of Socialism	Dr. Sydney Hutchinson
Culture, Social Sciences and Politics	Centre Marc Bloch – German-French Research Centre	Dr. Alix Winter, Dr. Aurélie Denoyer
	Conceptualizing Racial Matters	Azakhiwe Nocanda
	Constitutional reform in the UK: what do experts think?	Dr. Paolo Chiocchetti
	Secularity, Islam, and Democracy in Indonesia and Turkey	Dr. Saskia Schäfer
	South Asian Cultural Practitioners in the Diaspora	Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider
	Fluid Interdisciplinarities Festival – Zentrum für Kulturtechnik	Xenia Muth, Pauline Münch
Start-Ups	arcneo GmbH	Despot Bitschnau, Jonathan Albroscheit, Jens Bredler
	Enpact e.V.	Matthias Treutwein
	inVenture Capital GmbH	Samuel Gassauer
	Kronfeld Tragfläche	Karl Kronfeld
	Peregrine Technologies GmbH	Dr. Naja von Schmude

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Outcomes and Perspectives

This chapter highlights the academic and professional outcomes of the Humboldt Internship Program 2025. It presents selected research posters developed during the internship period and offers insight into the diverse trajectories our alumni have pursued since completing the program.

While only a selection of posters can be featured here, they reflect the intellectual breadth and quality of the projects undertaken across research groups and start-ups. Notably, numerous students have also gone on to (co-)publish their work, underscoring the substantive and lasting impact of their contributions. The alumni updates included in this section further illustrate how the internship experience continues to shape academic paths, career decisions, and personal development well beyond the program itself.


South Asian Cultural Practitioners in the Diaspora
Arya Lovekar

South Asian Restaurants as Diaspora Cultural Practice

This research used a survey of four South Asian restaurants in Berlin. Semi-structured informal conversations with managers and kitchen chefs at these restaurants were used to understand how they view their contribution to the cultural practice of diaspora food.

A meal at one of the restaurants surveyed

Whose food?

South Asian restaurants in Berlin do not usually refer to themselves as South Asian. Instead, South Asian restaurants tend to use the names of specific countries, most commonly India. A restaurant listed as "Indian" is often also a Pakistani or Nepali restaurant, since, according to respondents, Indian food is generally better known in Berlin.

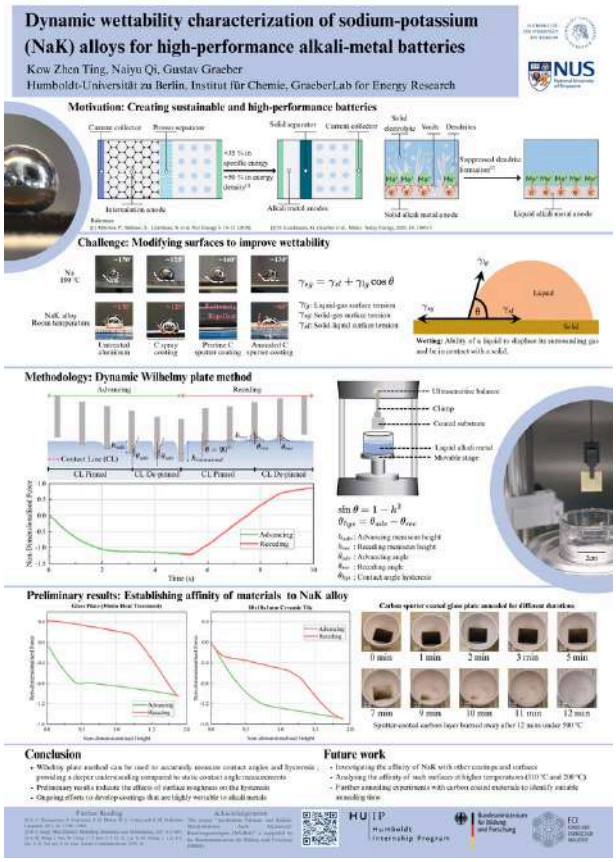
By default, an Indian restaurant serves North Indian "curry-style" food. When asked about South Indian food, respondents explained that this would require extra expertise and cost more; two respondents at different restaurants said that they had not included South Indian food so they could keep the menu "simple". South Indian food that was "curry-style," like Chettinad curry or Vindaloo was nevertheless included; items like idli and dosa were excluded. Because of this pattern, some specifically South Indian restaurants have recently started coming up; this more specific regional specialisation indicates clear cultural splits that remain even in the diaspora. Another prominent absence was of Dalit food, which is deeply marginalised even in South Asia, and was not offered in any of the surveyed restaurants. Beef and pork dishes were excluded from the menu as a rule even though these are commonly eaten in Germany. Respondents said this was a matter of "respect" for communities that do not eat these meats for religious reasons. Thus, certain South Asian communities' practices are prioritised over other. The selection of food in a South Asian restaurant in Berlin contributes to the reinforcement of popular local perceptions of food from this region. As one respondent said, many customers are surprised to learn that South Asian food comprises more than a well-known but narrow set of curries.

For whom?

Respondents reported a mixed customer base, including local Berliners, tourists, and occasionally South Asians. Each respondent characterised their typical customer base very differently, ranging from praising them for their middle-class morality ("they are educated, respectful, and have families") to assessments of relative poverty ("rich people here don't want to eat Indian food"). This indicates that the market for South Asian food in Berlin is vastly varied and each restaurant constructs their own imagined audience. Some discomfort around South Asian customers was common; respondents said they often complain about the food not being "authentic" (which may be because of recipes altered for local tastes or simply to speed up the cooking process). This distancing from one's own community in favour of local customers manifested in decisions about the menu and decor, despite the exclusion of beef and pork in deference to South Asian sensibilities.

By whom?

The surveyed restaurants preferred to hire South Asian kitchen and wait staff, explained as "other people don't understand our food". Some dishes described as "authentic" and nostalgic are often made for staff by the cook, but may not be on the menu. Many of the head cooks at these restaurants arrived in Germany using a chef visa, granted after standardised training in South Asian cooking. Where the head cook owned the restaurant, fewer standardised dishes and more personal favourites of the cook appeared on the menu. Due to the shared migrant background of the staff, these restaurants often function as a source of community support for staff, who may rely on each other and the manager for matters like getting housing or navigating an unfamiliar city.


Dynamic wettability characterization of sodium-potassium (NaK) alloys for high-performance alkali-metal batteries

Kew Zhen Ting, Naiyu Qi, Gustav Graeber

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institut für Chemie, GraeberLab for Energy Research

Motivation: Creating sustainable and high-performance batteries

Challenge: Modifying surfaces to improve wettability

Methodology: Dynamic Wilhelmy plate method

Preliminary results: Establishing affinity of materials to NaK alloy

Conclusion

Future work

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We asked former HIP participants what they are doing now – here are some of the responses:

HIP Alumni from 2025

- Advancing in the science and technology fields after graduating from Cochin University of Science and Technology.
- Taking skills global after completing studies at UDLAP in Mexico, blending local expertise with international opportunities.
- Leading innovations in medical research and healthcare through work at the University of Toronto and Unity Health Toronto in Canada.
- Pursuing dynamic careers in medicine, pharmacy, and scientific research after graduating from George Emil Palade University in Târgu Mureș, Romania.
- Contributing to mental health research and applied psychology as a former psychology student at Istanbul Topkapi University in Turkey.
- Gaining hands-on research experience as a research intern at the University of Bonn in Germany, preparing for careers in academia and science.

HIP Alumni from Previous Years

- Conducting research at the Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani in Argentina.
- Contributing to innovative lighting solutions at Signify (formerly Philips Lighting) in India.
- Engaged in research at the Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Canada.
- Pursuing studies in Neuroscience at Aalto University, Finland.
- Working at OneSpa World in Miami, United States.
- Working at Firjan in Brazil, focusing on industry and development projects.
- Engaged in research at the Institut Pasteur, France.
- Developing expertise in music studies at the Department of Music Studies (Arta), University of Ioannina, Greece.
- Pursuing a PhD at the University of Toronto, Canada.
- Continuing academic and medical work across Argentina at Universidad de Buenos Aires, Universidad Nacional de las Artes, and Hospital Interzonal General de Agudos ‘Evita’.

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HIP Project: South Asian Cultural Practitioners in Diaspora
Cricket in Berlin

Right to City: Playing Home, Away

The research project explores the cricket-playing community in Berlin. It focuses on the demographic composition of this community: their origins, their livelihood, and their social positions. It further situates this community in the urban space by locating the places where they play the sport.

Who play cricket?

Cricket is mostly understood as a British game. The game has been picked up by Commonwealth countries, although countries like Netherlands and Ireland also play. Its history in Germany can be traced back to 1858. However, it wasn't popular until recently. The British presence during the Cold War and the recent immigration from South Asian countries are two major factors in its rising uptake.

Lately, the number of registered clubs have risen. Both men's and women's teams now compete within Germany for Bundesliga and go on tours to Netherlands and the UK. There is a marked regional bias in the composition of teams. Although, an active drive to make certain teams more inclusive is also visible.

The players are mostly Hobbysportlers. They have varying occupations such as restaurant owners, tech experts, freelancers, university students. It is only during the weekends that they play.

Where play cricket?

There aren't many dedicated grounds in Berlin to play cricket. The only cricket ground in Berlin is Maifeld in Olympiastadion. The other facility is 1.5 hours away from the main city in Bliesendorf (Havel). These grounds are generally booked for competitive Bundesliga games.

Other places in the city such as Tempelhofer Feld and Volkspark Rehberge are public parks and act as makeshift solutions. As per one respondent, it was during the COVID-19 pandemic that gully cricket became popular in the city.

For people eager to learn cricket, the Freie Universität Berlin also offers a course.

Source: Durant Cricket, Facebook

Why play cricket?

Of course, the game is mostly played for leisure. However, the game is also marked by nostalgic longing and aggression.

Many players associate the game with their childhood. When they played here, they felt closer to home. It can be viewed as an integral aspect of culture. One respondent reported his father asking him to start playing in order "to learn some culture." As such, it is an act of longing for belonging.

Furthermore, many players do not feel welcomed by the city Berlin. Hence, the cricket pitch becomes for them a safer space where a sense of camaraderie can be built. It becomes the space where the remorse of heimweh can be channeled. In so doing, it is also an act of placemaking by a community; to make themselves seen and heard, by someone (not necessarily everyone).

Literature

(1) Hoque, Aseela. 2021. Playing on The Back Foot. in: *New Sociological Perspectives*. 1 (1).

(2) Carolyn Ellis, Tony E. Adams, & Arthur P. Bochner. "Autoethnography: An Overview". in: *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung* V. 12, No. 1, Art. 10 - January 2011)

...how was that?

Marketing and Communication internship at Kronfeld Tragfläche

Progress so far

Marketing
Over the past 6 weeks I have been involved in developing the social media campaign strategy, from researching different rebranding social media tactics, of different companies to creating different social media posts (Linked in, Instagram). This has been my main task, showing how the company can explore how they can harness their online presence in their future rebrand. Using my film making and editing skills I have developed short videos for their online platforms. I've been working on a plan for our future Instagram, exploring how different posts can fit together so we can create a more cohesive and well organized feed moving forward. Along with this, I have also worked on ideas for future posts.
My research:

Developing online content
A large part of my work has been editing and creating video content, a skill which I had originally had some experience in but I have had the chance to practice and develop throughout the past 6 weeks.

Networking and innovation events
At these exciting events, I was able to connect and network with other young entrepreneurs and developed start-ups. Seeing the innovation I had received an extremely being put into practice along with learning about the new innovative company proposals. Here we also attended a speed coaching on our start up.

Proposals, contracts and translation
Being a german company, I have been harnessing my bilingual knowledge in translating german language documents to english. Along with helping write proposals for applications and writing smaller contracts myself.

Kronfeld Tragfläche

I have been working at an exciting bike component start up, which has tapped into my passion of cycling and the outdoors. The company specialises in making extendable cargo bike racks, to ensure everyday transport is easier. It is an conscious start-up, placing sustainable solutions in the real world.

Challenges and accomplishments

Working at Kronfeld Tragfläche has been a brilliant and rewarding experience. I've gained valuable skills and contributed across various teams to work, both within and beyond marketing.

Challenges
- Working and writing in a professional German-speaking environment required extra focus. To overcome this, I began taking German lessons.
- The fast-paced nature of a start-up meant that priorities changed quickly and tasks were sometimes needed at a faster pace. Although this was new to me, I found the pace exciting and well suited to my personality.

Accomplishments
- I have become adaptable and improved my problem-solving skills by taking on a wide range of tasks from marketing responsibilities to hands-on assembling bikes.
- I've improved my working speed and flexibility, both essential qualities in a fast-moving start-up environment.
- I have been involved in key company decisions and company meetings, an experience I have cherished and have learnt a lot about the art of decision making.

Eurobike 2025!

This was a key milestone in my internship. Eurobike is a large convention where bike brands engage with B2B and B2C audiences. We had many business meetings about product development and made valuable connections.
It was a thrilling experience and was amazing to see so many different bike stands, from start ups and small businesses to large companies and worldwide brands, all coming together to showcase their products and manufacturing capabilities.
I learned a lot about the global biking industry, and I also see how important it is to build connections and share knowledge across all areas of cycling!
Whilst tiring, the trip wasn't just work though, we also had a lot of fun! We went swimming in a beautiful lake and spent some great quality time with the team.

Next steps/ future work

Much of the initial work has been towards Eurobike, along with the tasks mentioned above. The next focus points my of work will involve the:

- Creation and editing of a potential image film
- Developing and publishing the content from Eurobike
- A trip to Rugen.
- Attending more innovation and networking events.
- Aiding the development of a application proposal.

Learnings

As a young woman with a career goal of working in or running a start up, I learned key of skills needed for a successful and energised start-up from this internship.

- Perseverance – start-ups demand a high level of perseverance. I've seen firsthand how the team consistently pushes every opportunity forward to bring their vision to life, despite challenges and setbacks.
- Openness to Feedback – the team places great value on every interaction. They are always eager to listen, learn, and take insights from anyone who might have something to contribute about the product or the company's potential.
- Supportive Collaboration – Although a small team, they are supportive and collaborate effectively. Everyone is always excited to help with the next step, which fuels a great atmosphere and fast progress.

As an innovation student at the University of Bristol, I have seen classroom theory put into practice. I will refer back to this experience consistently throughout my university studies and future career.

Second World Music: Latin America, East Germany, and the Sonic Circuitry of Socialism

Reconstructing German Democratic Republic Social Dances

A DIVIDED GERMANY

Divided Germany refers to the period between 1949 and 1990 when the country was split into two states: the capitalist West Germany and the socialist East Germany, aligned with the U.S. and Soviet Union respectively. The Berlin Wall became the most visible symbol of this division. Life on either side of the divide differed drastically, shaping contrasting political cultures and everyday experiences. The eventual fall of the Wall in 1989 paved the way for reunification.

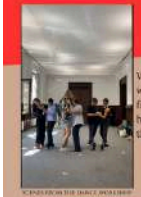
MAP OF DIVIDED GERMANY

SOCIAL DANCING IN THE GDR

GDR dance teachers and composers invented dozens of dance trends to give young people more socialist ways of socializing. "New men" and "new women" needed new dances. We learned to dance Lipsi, Pertutti, and Juka. We also participated in the musical reconstruction of Neudrina.

DANCE WORKSHOPS

We partnered with cultural organizations to hold free workshops teaching various dances to the public. We screened films showing the history of dance in the GDR and talked about how the choreography developed. Participants remarked that the dance was fun and a great way to meet others.



A Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Model of Lixisenatide

Olivia Hoi Ching Yau[2] & Matthias König[1]
[1] Humboldt-University of Berlin, Institute for Theoretical Biology, Berlin, Germany
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https://livermetabolism.com, olivia.yau@mail.utoronto.ca, koenigmx@hu-berlin.de

BACKGROUND

This project leverages an open pharmacokinetics database, along with established data curation and model simulation protocols, to develop a physiologically based pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic (PBPK/PD) model for the GLP-1 receptor agonist lixisenatide. Since type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is often accompanied by liver and renal impairments, obesity, and cardiovascular disease, this study aims to assess how these factors influence drug behavior. By developing a PBPK/PD model, we aim to establish a tool to support personalized medicine of T2DM management.

METHODS

Over 50 publications on lixisenatide pharmacokinetic (PK) and pharmacodynamic (PD) were identified through a systematic literature review using PubMed and the PBPDK database. Relevant studies were selected for curation and uploaded into PK-DB.

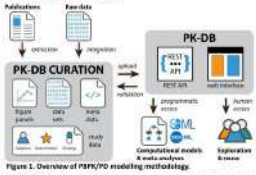

Figure 1. Overview of PBPK/PD modelling methodology.

The PBPK/PD model was developed using a compartmental approach and encoded in Systems Biology Markup Language (SBML) to ensure accessibility and reproducibility. Model optimisation was performed through parameter fitting to maximize agreement between experimental observations and model predictions.

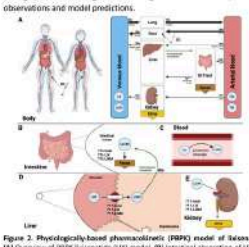

Figure 2. Physiologically-based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) model of lixisenatide. (A) Overview of PBPK lixisenatide (LIX) model. (B) Intestinal absorption of LIX. (C) Blood compartment showing proteolytic cleavage of LIX into LIXM. (D) Hepatic metabolism in the liver. (E) Renal excretion of LIX and LIXM, with concentrations and pathways remaining unclear due to limited data.

RESULTS

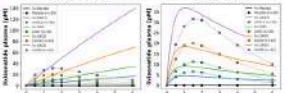

Figure 3. Overview of curated studies and available data for lixisenatide PBPK/PD modeling. This table summarizes data availability and processing across studies included in the model development.

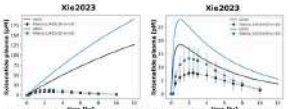

Figure 4. PK model simulation and predictions before and after parameter optimization. Solid lines represent model predictions, while dotted lines correspond to experimental data mean ± SD.

FUTURE DIRECTION

With the PK part of the project nearing completion, we will now shift our focus to the PD aspect. Given lixisenatide's ability to manage postprandial hyperglycemia (PPG) more effectively than current longer-acting options, our primary focus will be on its effects on gastric emptying and PPG control. This next phase will involve identifying existing mathematical models and experimental time-course data to model these PD effects and incorporating them into the PBPK model to further enhance our understanding of lixisenatide's pharmacological profile.

HUMBOLDT INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME (HIP) EXPERIENCE

The Humboldt Internship Program has been an eye-opening experience, providing me with valuable insights into the intersection of computational tools and pharmacology. Through this project, I have learned how to simulate the effects of a heterogeneous disease on drug metabolism, which has deepened my understanding of pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine. I am excited to see how the concepts and skills I have gained during this internship can be applied to future research. Thank you Dr. König for your guidance and patience throughout this research project. The passion you put into your research continuously inspires me and I will ensure to carry your teachings with me through my research career.

Funding
OY was supported by the Humboldt Internship Program 2025 and University of Toronto - Centre for International Experience (PCL150710). MK was supported by the BMBF within ATLAS by grant number 031L0301B and by the DFG within QuaLiPerF by grant number 423808607 and by grant number 460190407 (SPP2311, Sinsilife). This work was supported by the BMBF-funded de.NBI Cloud within the German Network for Bioinformatics Infrastructure (de.NBI) (031A537B, 031A538A, 031A533B, 031A535A, 031A537C, 031A534A, 031A532B).

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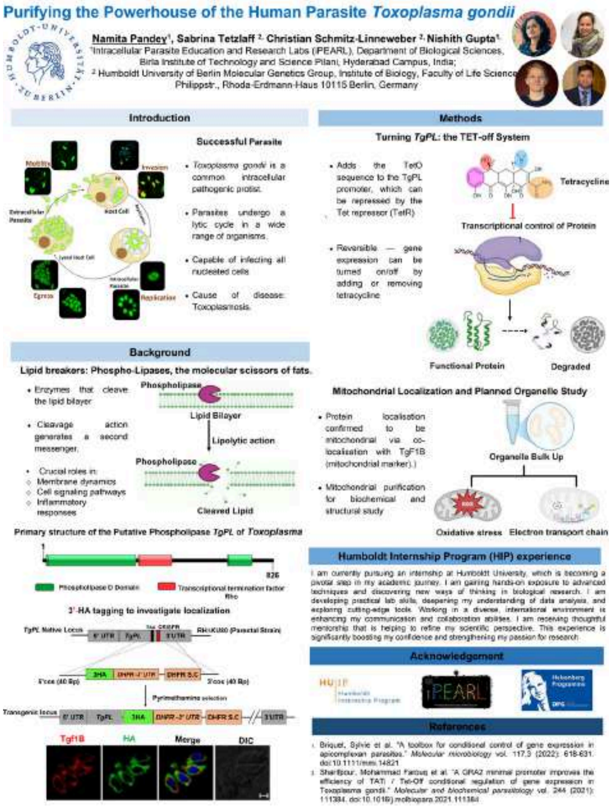

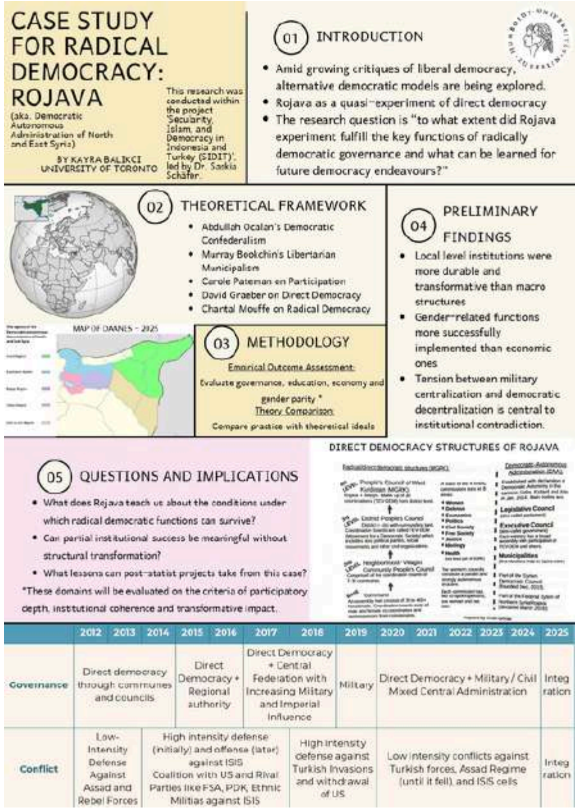

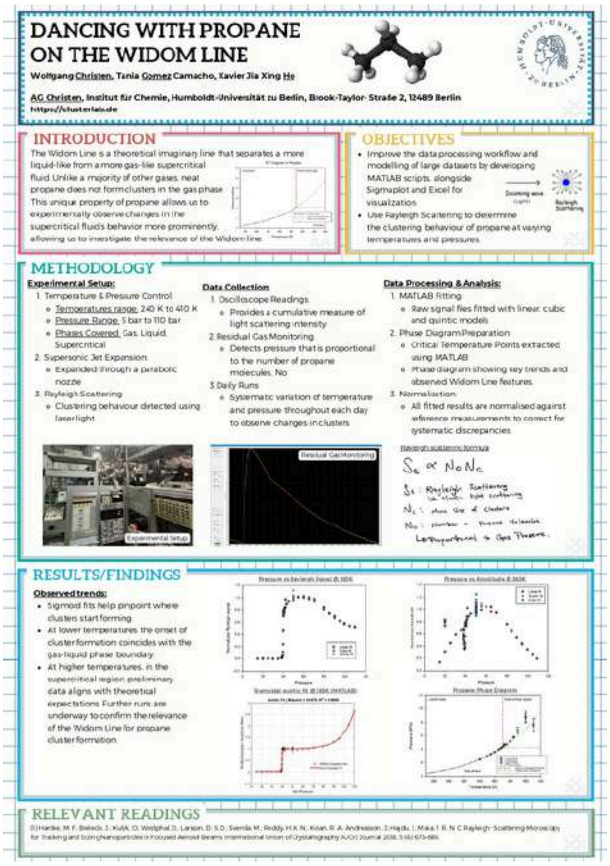

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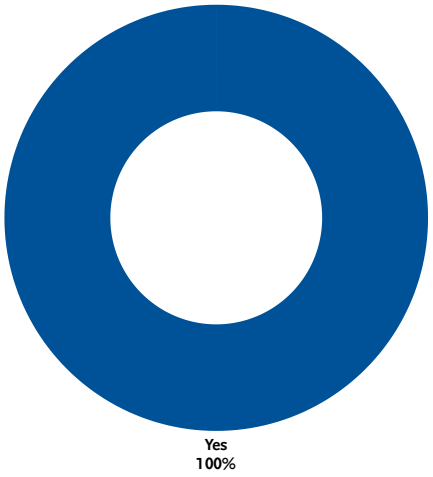
HIP 2025 at a Glance:

Evaluation Results and Program Data

This section provides a quantitative overview of the Humboldt Internship Program 2025. It presents key figures on participation, including the geographic distribution of students, academic backgrounds, and host institutions, as well as selected findings from the post-program survey. Together, these data offer a structured perspective on the program's global reach, disciplinary diversity, and overall participant experience. The statistics complement the qualitative insights presented in the previous chapters and contribute to a comprehensive assessment of the program's scope and impact.



All HIP Students would recommend the program to the other students!

The majority of the HIP students gained valuable new academic/professional skills during the internship:

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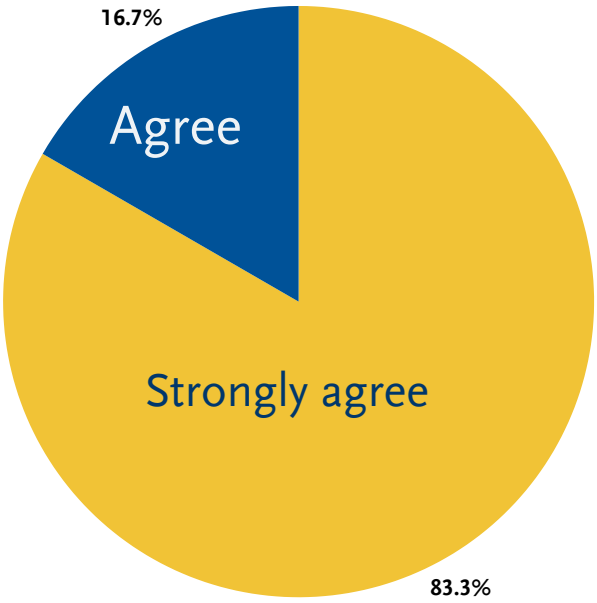
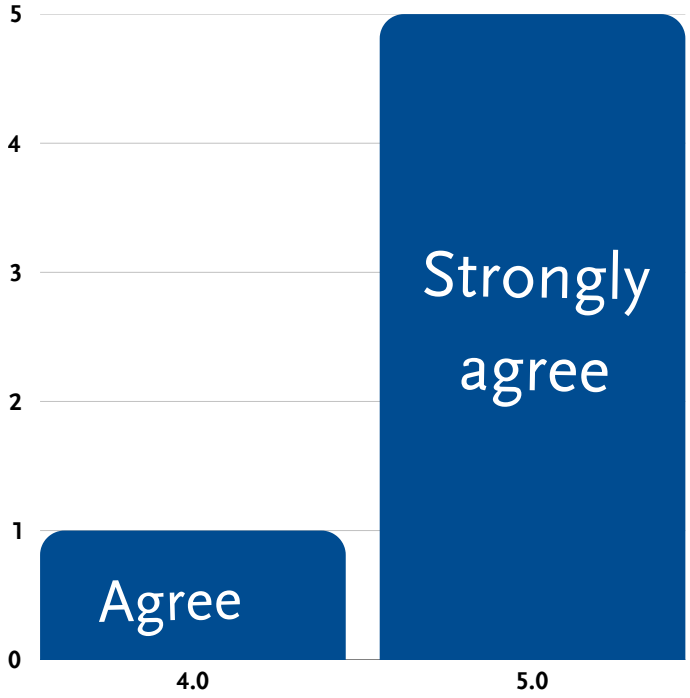
HIP Students Agree:

HIP is a truly satisfying experience.





HU, as a host institution, made me feel like I belonged.

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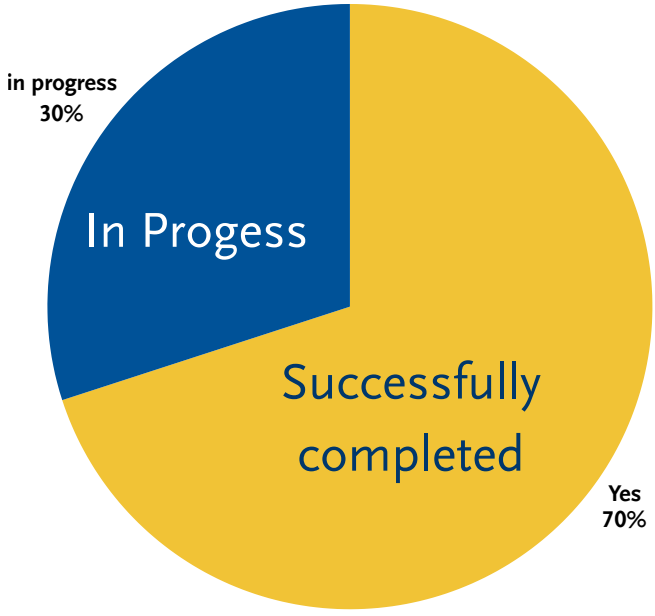
We asked the HIP Student Supervisors too!

Supervisors rate their overall experience supervising a HIP Student as “very satified”.



Status of tangible outcomes of the student’s internship work (e.g., data analysis, drafted text, developed tools) at the end of the internship.

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In 2025, HIP had 51 participants...

... from 36 different home universities worldwide.

... awarded 25 program scholarships of € 2.250,000 each, funded by Santander Universities.

... joining 19 research teams at HU and 5 start-up teams.

... working an average of 32 hours per week during their HIP participation.

... making new friends during the program, expanding their network, and making unforgettable memories.

Countries of Home Universities of the 51 Participants 2025

Europe
15 Participants

Poland 1
Spain 2
UK 4
Netherlands 1
Belgium 1
Portugal 1
Sweden 1
Romania 1
Norway 1
Finland 1

Asia
13 Participants

India 4
Singapore 6
Indonesia 1
Iran 1
Türkiye 2

USA + Canada
16 Participants

USA 12
Canada 4

Central and South America
6 Participants

Mexico 2
Argentinia 3
Ecuador 1

Africa
1 Participant

South Africa 1

Humboldt Internship Program 2025: Nationalities of the 51 Participants

Europe
10 Participants

Poland 1
Spain 1
UK 1
Belgium 1
Portugal 1
Ireland 1
Romania 2
Germany 1
Bulgaria 1

Asia
20 Participants

India 6
Singapore 5
Indonesia 1
Iran 1
Türkiye 3
South Korea 3
China 1

USA + Canada
12 Participants

USA 9
Canada 3

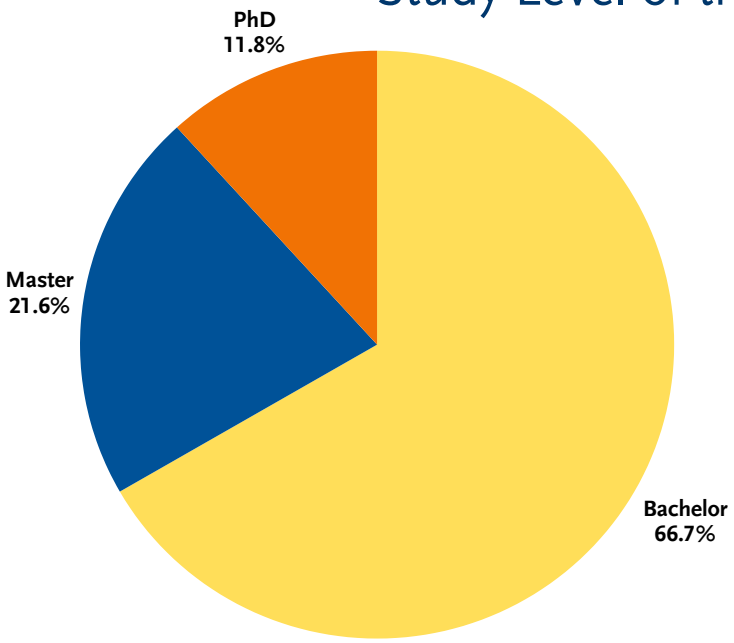
Central and South America
7 Participants

Mexico 3
Argentinia 3
Ecuador 1

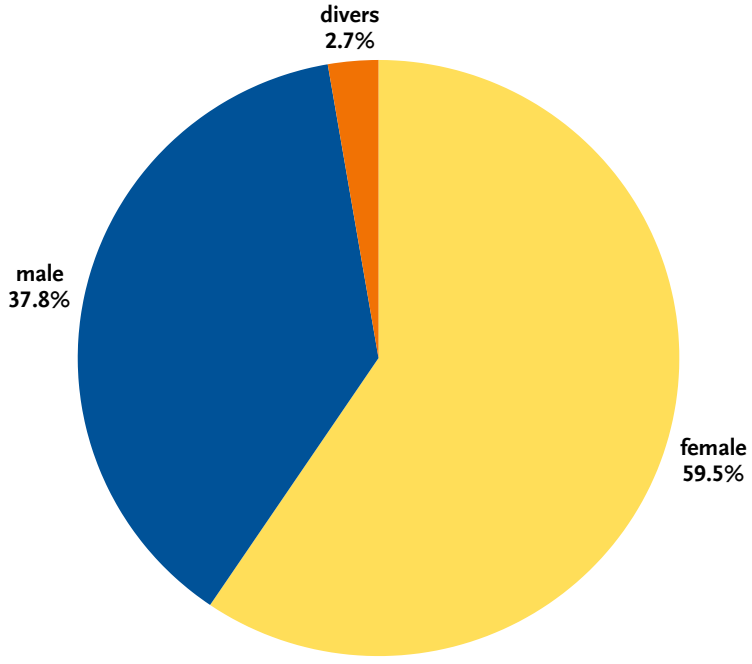
Africa
2 Participants

South Africa 1
Morocco 1

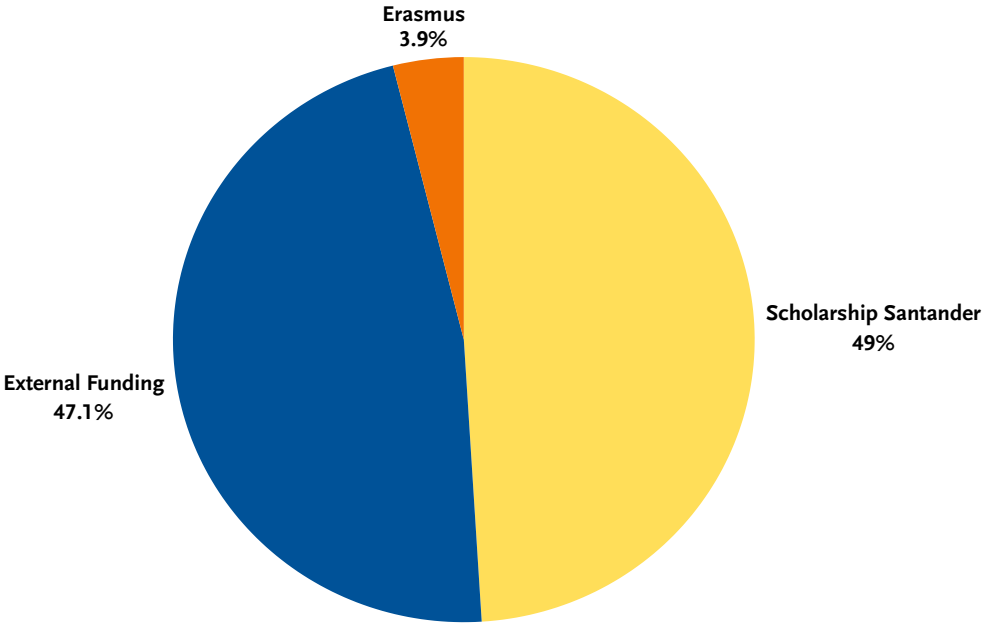
Study Level of the 51 Participants 2025



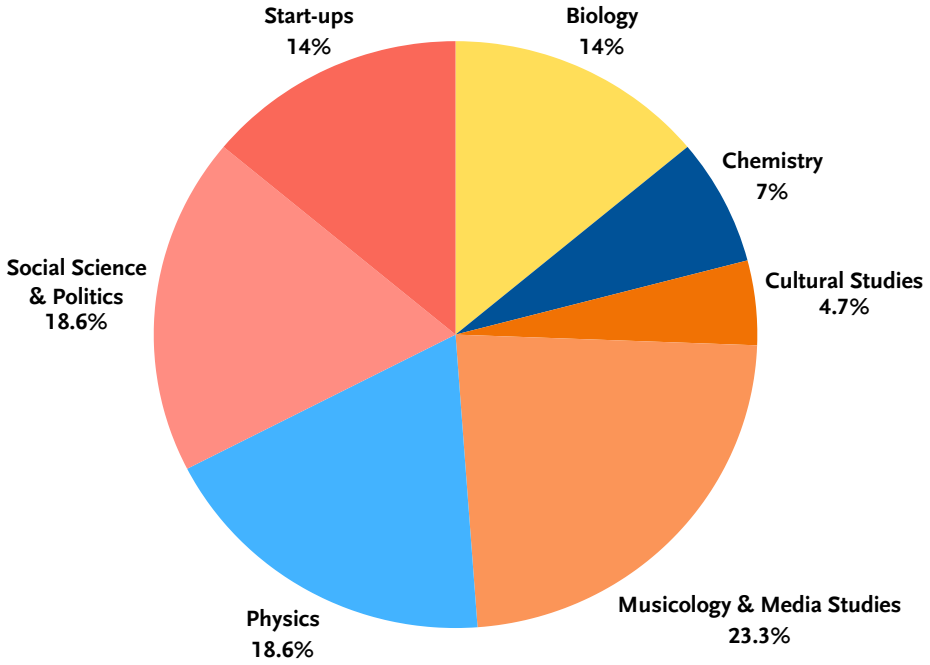
Gender of the 51 Participants 2025



Scholarships of the 51 Participants 2025



Internship Departments of the 51 Participants 2025



Conclusion and Outlook

The Humboldt Internship Program 2025 has demonstrated the value of international collaboration, interdisciplinary research, and hands-on learning. By bringing students from around the world into Humboldt's research groups and start-ups, the program contributes directly to the internationalization of both academic research and the local start-up ecosystem, fostering exchange, fresh perspectives, and long-term connections. Looking ahead, the program will continue to build on these experiences, expanding opportunities for students as well as research and start-up teams alike.

We extend our sincere thanks to all students and supervisors for their contributions. Together, you have shaped a summer of meaningful collaboration, cross-cultural exchange, and lasting connections.
We would also like to thank Santander Bank for their generous support of the student scholarships, which make participation accessible to a diverse group of students.
With all our partners, we look forward to continuing the development of the program and further strengthening international partnerships.

If this report sparked your interest and you would like to learn more about the Humboldt Internship Program, we warmly invite you to join us at this year's program event on July 7, 2026. Should you consider offering a placement in the future, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

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