Freie Universität Berlin and Universität Zürich have been strategic partners since spring 2017. With the goal of strengthening cooperation in research and teaching, the University of Zurich (UZH) and Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) have established a joint funding scheme meant to facilitate research stays of visiting scholars at the respective institutions. Over the course of the years 2018 and 2019, UZH and FUB will jointly award a total number of eight research stays for visiting scholars, each stay lasting for a duration of one month. The thematic emphasis of this new funding scheme will be placed on the subject of digitalization. Applications from this interdisciplinary field will be prioritized.

The funding seeks to contribute to the networking of researchers and to the internationalization of teaching. Through the participation in courses, public lectures and the interaction with colleagues, the visiting scholars will receive insight into the hosting institution and expand their research network, which in turn will strengthen research cooperation between the University of Zurich and Freie Universität Berlin.

The funded stays should pursue a clearly defined goal and serve as a catalyst for deepened cooperation. In order to make a broad impact at the university, the stay should include several of the following components:

- Initiation of joint research projects
- Active participation of the visiting scholars in one or several courses
- Lecture at FUB/UZH
- Networking event at the hosting department/institute or faculty

Applications for this funding scheme can be submitted by professors of both universities. Funding will be provided for stays of one month. Due to the specifications listed above, an overlap between the period of the stay and the respective lecture period is necessary. With regard to the differing lecture periods at both universities, stays during March and September at the University of Zurich and stays during January and June at Freie Universität Berlin seem most feasible. However, the exact time for the visit can be decided upon freely by the visiting scholar and the host. The application should address the concrete realization of the components of the stay mentioned above.

The funding scheme is not limited to a specific academic field, though activities focusing on the interdisciplinary field of digitalization will be prioritized. Funding for visiting scholars of the University of Zurich at Freie Universität Berlin amounts to 3.500 Euro + a grant for travel expenses of 250 € for a month-long stay. Visiting scholars of Freie Universität Berlin at the
University of Zurich will receive a guest researcher allowance amounting to 5,000 CHF and a grant for their travel expenses of 250 CHF for a month-long stay.

Selection criteria

Funding will be provided on a competitive basis. A joint UZH-FUB committee, paying particular attention to the following criteria, will select the visiting scholars:

• Clearly formulated plan of the activity
• Concrete illustration of the components of the stay mentioned above
• Envisaged synergies and added value for ongoing research on both sides
• Utility of the proposed activity for the establishment of sustainable research partnerships and institutional connections between UZH and FUB

Submission and deadlines

UZH and FUB faculty should jointly submit proposals for UZH-FUB Visiting Scholars in English or German. Please hand in your proposal using our joint application form and attach the following information:

• Written endorsement letter from the hosting department/faculty at UZH or FUB. Please confirm provision of a working space and additional funds (if necessary).
• Short CV of the visiting scholar (should not exceed 2 pages)

Applications for stays at the end of 2018 / at the beginning of 2019 should be submitted in the preceding summer semester. The next deadline is May 15, 2018.

Researchers should submit their joint proposal simultaneously in Berlin and in Zurich. Proposals should be sent electronically to the following addresses:

At Freie Universität Berlin:
Center for International Cooperation
Judith Winkler
Tel: +49 (0)30 838 73949
Email: judith.winkler@fu-berlin.de
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At Universität Zürich:
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