



Press release No. xxx | sn | 03.09.2020

Financial support, proofreading service and additional free continuing education offers

The University creates specific measures to promote equality of opportunity during the COVID-19 pandemic

TU Berlin has developed a range of specific measures to support its junior scholars with children or who live with dependents requiring care and who are experiencing additional difficulties as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The following package of measures will be financed with funding from the Excellence Strategy until the end of 2020: financial support for care services, extending the scope of the proofreading service for junior scholars, and additional courses provided by the Center for Scientific Continuing Education and Cooperation (ZEWK).

Initial findings, such as those published in a report on gainful employment during the coronavirus by the Berlin Social Science Center and the analysis of Philippe Vincent-Lamarre and other authors in the article “The decline of women’s research production during the coronavirus pandemic”, suggest that people responsible for caring for dependents and/or children (the majority of whom are women) have submitted less works for publication as a result of the pandemic and are experiencing greater difficulties with other areas of academic work as a result of the situation. “Particularly affected are doctoral candidates, due to the pressure to be productive during this phase of their careers. TU Berlin is therefore providing 600,000 euros from its strategy funding for the Excellence Initiative to provide measures to help its junior scholars deal with this exceptional situation,” says Professor Dr. Angela Ittel, TU vice president for strategic development, junior scholars and teacher education.

Researchers in the doctoral phase who are members of TU Berlin and who a) have at least one child aged between 8 weeks and 12 years living permanently with them and/or b) who are caring for a dependent are entitled to apply for financial support to help cover the costs of care and childcare services.

The University’s proofreading service has also been extended and is now available to all junior scholars: As of now, all junior scholars can submit one application in English for third-party funding and one academic paper written in English for publication in a peer review journal for free proofreading. You can find further information at: <https://www.tu-berlin.de/?id=213601>

The ZEWK’s extended portfolio of free courses can be viewed at: <http://www.tu-berlin.de/?id=215389>. The courses offered focus on how to successfully complete a doctorate, academic writing, self management when working from home and how to strengthen mental health in difficult times.

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Report on gainful employment during the coronavirus “Erwerbsarbeit in Zeiten von Corona” published by the Berlin Social Science Center (WZ) version 1.0:
<https://wzb.eu/de/forschung/dynamiken-sozialer-ungleichheiten/arbeit-und-fuersorge/corona-alltag>

Philippe Vincent-Lamarre, Cassidy R. Sugimoto, Vincent Larivière. May 19, 2020. The decline of women's research production during the coronavirus pandemic:
<https://www.natureindex.com/news-blog/decline-women-scientist-research-publishing-production-coronavirus-pandemic>

Further information is available from:

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