

The President

Freie Universität Berlin, The President's Office
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Dear Doctoral Students,

On behalf of our entire academic community, we would like to welcome you to Freie Universität Berlin. We are delighted that you have chosen our university for your doctoral studies and congratulate you on your admission.

Whether you have earned your previous degrees at Freie Universität Berlin or at another university, the transition to doctoral studies marks an important stage in your academic career, and we hope that the transition will go smoothly, despite the highly unusual circumstances created by the pandemic. For those coming from abroad, this change is potentially greater, and we are very pleased that you have made the decision to come here. We have many useful services to help you settle in. Freie Universität Berlin sees itself as an international community for teaching and learning, and we are happy that you are now part of this ongoing tradition.

These are indeed strange times to begin your pursuit of a doctorate. The pandemic has altered everyday life in ways no one could have predicted – and that includes life on campus and throughout the world of education. It has been a challenging time for all of us in many respects, which gives us all the more reason to congratulate you on your decision to begin your doctorate at Freie Universität Berlin. Rest assured, our dedicated staff is here for you to help you find your way and support you as you make the transition into life as a doctoral student at Freie Universität.

It is particularly important to us to support you during your doctoral studies as best we can. Therefore, we encourage you to explore the numerous research projects at our university and make use of the wide variety of professional development opportunities available here. We are certain that your doctoral studies will benefit from our large spectrum of resources. You can find more information about this on our website:

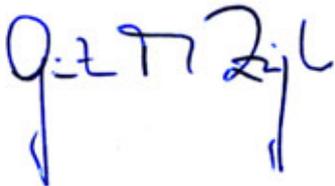
<https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/drs/>.

You have been given a “student account” by ZEDAT, our central IT facility. Please do not forget to activate this account, as it is the university administration’s communication channel with you. This student account is also necessary if you want to use our IT systems. If you are already employed as a researcher at Freie Universität Berlin, you have been given a student account in addition to your staff account.

We are writing this letter in May 2022 in the face of developments related to the pandemic that can suddenly force an unexpected change of plans. At this point, we are working under the assumption that conducting research at Freie Universität during the 2022/23 winter semester will be possible on campus in large part. However, it will also depend on your department's facilities and the specific demands in your field of research. We are well aware that it is important to be able to experience things in person, especially when you are starting a new phase of your life or learning something new. That is why we are doing our best to make sure that the university and its campus continue to be a place that you can experience in person to the extent that the present situation allows.

We wish you a great start at Freie Universität and much success with your doctorate.

Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Günter M. Ziegler
President



Prof. Dr. Marianne Braig
Vice President