

Postdoc Academy for Transformational Leadership

Who should apply?

The program aims at postdocs from academic institutions across Europe who want to make a research impact in the transformation towards a sustainable society and advance the complementarity of social sciences, natural sciences and the humanities.

Applicants should

- be excellent researchers with a vision (societal impact),
- have a strong interest in doing inter- and transdisciplinary sustainability research,
- have a research topic relevant to the year's focus topic,
- be striving towards academic leadership positions,
- be academic intrapreneurs who act responsibly and initiate positive change in their institutions,
- be fluent in English and
- have funds for their postdoc research for the majority of the duration of the Postdoc Academy.

20 researchers will be selected per intake.

Costs and fees

The program is free of charge. Travel and accommodation expenses for the seminars will be reimbursed.

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The Academic Partners





Who are we?

The Postdoc Academy for Transformational Leadership is an initiative of the Robert Bosch Stiftung and a joint project of the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the four academic centers

- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (IRI THESys),
- Leuphana University of Lüneburg,
- Stockholm Resilience Centre and
- Dutch Research Institute for Transitions (DRIFT), Rotterdam.

About the Postdoc Academy

The Postdoc Academy for Transformational Leadership is designed to develop the next generation of leaders in sustainability and transformation research. It is an intensive high-end program with four seminars in two years that broaden the research competencies of postdocs and promote their qualifications towards transdisciplinary leadership.

The program also offers seed funding (e.g. for stakeholder meetings or proposal writing activities) to small groups of participants who plan to initiate research collaborations. Furthermore, an active network of current and former participants of the program will be established.

About the program

The program consists of four seminars (three full days each) over a period of two years. Each seminar will take place at one of the four academic centers and focus on their respective expertise. The seminars build on each other and are complementary. They are linked by four thematic modules that create an overarching framework:

Module 1 engages with sustainability science as a research field. It presents resulting challenges for theory and methodology and how to cope with them using examples of the year's focus topic.

Module 2 aims to increase the understanding of how complex systems thinking is used in transformative and sustainability research and how change in this development can be navigated.

Module 3 deals with theoretical, methodological and process-oriented questions revolving around transdisciplinary research, such as quality criteria, mutual learning and differentiation/integration. It also addresses challenges of the role of the researcher in these processes as well as "undisciplined" career pathways.

Module 4 deals with issues of career development. It discusses how participants can develop individual and coherent research profiles that will help them to develop their capabilities towards transformational leadership.

YEAR	SEMINARS	MODULES			
		1	2	3	4
Autumn Year 1	Transformations in human-environment research: Mode and logics 📍 Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (IRI THESys)/Germany	FOCUS TOPIC	SYSTEMS THINKING	TRANSFORMING RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	DEVELOPING CAPABILITIES AND CAREERS FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP
Spring Year 2	Transdisciplinary Research Environments and Transdisciplinary Learning 📍 Leuphana University of Lüneburg/ Germany				
Autumn Year 2	Transformative Capacity and Agency for People and Planet 📍 Stockholm Resilience Centre/ Sweden				
Spring Year 3	Social Innovation & Local Experimentation for Transformative Change 📍 The Dutch Research Institute for Transitions, Rotterdam/ The Netherlands				



Fotos: Anita Back