



**INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE:
BETWEEN TRANSFORMATION AND VIBE SHIFTS**

September 21-23, 2026

Campus Dahlem (Holzlaube, Fabeckstr. 23-25, 14195 Berlin)

Freie Universität Berlin in cooperation with the European university alliance Una Europa

In the late 2010s, a growing number of higher education institutions positioned themselves as pioneers of a comprehensive societal transformation toward sustainability. The discourse was marked by optimism and a strong belief in the transformative potential of universities as agents of change. By 2025, this landscape has evolved considerably. The original momentum of transformation has intersected with a proliferation of overlapping crises — geopolitical instability, the rise of reservations towards science and scientific evidence in several countries, the prioritization of economic considerations, digital disruption, and widespread fatigue surrounding ecological discourse. Within this context, sustainability no longer occupies an uncontested position of prominence but increasingly functions as one concern among many competing priorities.

This inter- and transdisciplinary conference addresses these shifting dynamics through the lens of a Whole Institution Approach. It aims to critically examine the current status of sustainability in higher education, tracing how the rhetoric of “transformation” has given way to more complex modes of negotiation, adaptation, and resilience. The program offers a self-reflective engagement with the role of science communication, and higher education institutions in advancing climate action, biodiversity conservation, and social responsibility.

Workshops will present ongoing research and institutional activities, providing a platform for dialogue on how universities can embed sustainability more deeply within their structures. Participants are invited to discuss how sustainability agendas can remain relevant in times of multiple crises, and how higher education can continue to foster critical knowledge, civic engagement, and institutional coherence under current conditions.

Compared to 2019, 2026 reveals a notable reconfiguration of priorities: the urgency of decarbonization and biodiversity are overshadowed by geopolitical crises.; and sustainability communication faces growing skepticism. Over the next five years, key challenges will include

maintaining sustainability commitments under financial strain, ensuring credible carbon reduction beyond offsetting, integrating ecological literacy across curricula, and revitalizing student engagement against a backdrop of climate fatigue.

The conference asks: **what's next when "transformation" becomes yesterday's vibe?**

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WELCOME FROM THE ORGANIZERS

We look forward to welcoming all participants to the first International *Sustainability in Higher Education Conference* in Berlin!

From September 21-23, 2026, Freie Universität Berlin will serve as the host institution for this conference. Freie Universität Berlin has become the first university in Germany to declare a climate emergency, joining the ranks of renowned international universities that prioritize climate protection and sustainability in their institutional practice.

Freie Universität Berlin invites scientists, researchers, and practitioners from universities and Una Europa partners; political and civil society experts; and partners from schools and municipal initiatives working in sustainability to present and discuss their current research and project results and formulate recommendations for the upcoming years.

With around 34,400 students, 4,730 staff members, and over 230 buildings, Freie Universität Berlin is an international network university committed to all aspects of sustainability, including research, education, campus management, and transfer. This whole-institution approach is also how we organize the conference program. The program consists of three days of keynote speeches from renowned experts, presentations from Una Europa partner universities representatives, and workshops that encourage intensive interdisciplinary exchange. The program also includes excursions and opportunities for networking, fostering a collaborative and interdisciplinary environment.

The conference is linked to the development of an edited volume that highlights international existing sustainability projects, reflects on their interactions, and discusses them in light of participatory negotiation processes. This volume is intended for stakeholders in academia, administration, civil society, and schools. It is designed to promote the dynamic development and international networking of sustainability initiatives.

We look forward to three days of plenary talks, discussions, and dedicated networking events that will enrich the program.

Below, you can find the most important details about the conference to keep in mind as you prepare for it. We hope that this conference guide will assist you in planning your visit to the capital of Germany.

The conference has been made possible thanks to the support of our sponsors: Una Europa.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER, 21		TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER, 22		WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER, 23	
	08:30 – 09:00		MORNING COFFEE / TEA		MORNING COFFEE / TEA
10:00 – 11:00	PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION	09:00 – 10:30	PLENARY SESSION <i>Incl. Break</i>		PLENARY SESSION <i>Incl. Break</i>
11:00 – 11:15	WELCOME NOTE	11:00 – 12:30	SIX PARALLEL WORKSHOPS <i>University Sustainability Governance Teaching and Education Finding the Right Voice Handprint and Nature Positivity Responsible Research Una Europa Student Incubator</i>		SIX PARALLEL WORKSHOPS <i>University Sustainability Governance Teaching and Education Finding the Right Voice Handprint and Nature Positivity Responsible Research Una Europa Student Incubator</i>
11:15 – 12:15	KEY NOTES				
12:15 – 13:00	DISCUSSION	12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK		LUNCH BREAK
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK	14:00 – 16:00	SIX PARALLEL WORKSHOPS <i>University Sustainability Governance Teaching and Education Finding the Right Voice Handprint and Nature Positivity Responsible Research Una Europa Student Incubator</i>		PRESENTATION OF WORKSHOP RESULTS
14:30 – 15:30	DISCUSSION IN SMALL GROUPS				CLOSING REMARKS
16:00 – 17:30	PANEL DISCUSSION <i>Incl. Summary of Day</i>	16:30 – 18:00	FUTURIST AWARDING <i>Incl. Summary of Day</i>		SIGHTSEEING-TOURS
18:00	EVENING RECEPTION	18:00	GET-TOGETHER		JOINT DINNER

The conference, "Sustainability in Higher Education: Between Transformation and Vibe Shifts", will be opened by the President of Freie Universität Berlin **Prof. Dr. Günter M. Ziegler**.

Participants will learn about the latest developments in sustainability from keynote speeches, such as by **Prof. Dr. Katrin Böhning-Gaese**, Scientific Director at Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, **Dr. Felix Chr. Matthes**, Research Coordinator Energy & Climate Policy at Öko-Institut Consult GmbH – Institute for Applied Ecology, and **Lena Partzsch**, Professor of Comparative Politics with a focus on Environmental and Climate Politics at Freie Universität Berlin.

Panel and group discussions have been expertly designed to facilitate exchange within the community by offering a range of insights from scientific and practical viewpoints.

Practice-oriented workshops will be offered on a variety of thematic areas, including: University Sustainability Governance, Education for Sustainable Development, Sustainability Communication, Handprint and Nature Positivity for Biodiversity, Responsible Research, and a Student Project Incubator. These workshops serve to refine the participants' comprehension of both the possibilities and limitations inherent to the subject matter, thereby fortifying their active involvement in the collaborative design process. The workshops address the question: What response, if any, could be considered appropriate and decisive in response to vibe shifts from universities?

The networking program gives participants the chance to get to know the campus, connect with others, and grow their professional network. Guided tours will offer participants the opportunity to discover exciting places on our campus and learn about their history.

Further information about the program, registration, and updates is available on our website: <https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/higher-ed-sustainability-conf/index.html>.

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

The conference will consist of six workshops that will present ongoing research and institutional activities. These sessions will provide a platform for dialogue on how universities can integrate sustainability more deeply into their structures.

The workshops will take place in parallel on Tuesday and Wednesday (September 22-23), and will address different areas of sustainability.

Una Europa Students may choose to participate in the Una Europa Student Project Incubator.

WORKSHOPS

- I. **"University Sustainability Governance in Times of Transformation and Vibe Shifts"** organized by Andreas Wanke and Katrin Schweigel (Freie Universität Berlin)
- II. **"Teaching and Education for Sustainable Development"** organized by Prof. Daniela Niesta Kayser and JunProf. Dr. Luisa Girnus (Freie Universität Berlin)
- III. **"Finding the Right Voice: How Universities Can Communicate Sustainability Without Losing Credibility"** organized by Katrin Bauer-Leppin (Freie Universität Berlin)
- IV. **"Starting with a New Vibe: Handprint and Nature Positivity for Biodiversity"** organized by Rebecca Rongstock and Sabine Heckmann (Freie Universität Berlin), and co-hosted by Alan Peddie (University of Edinburgh) and Jorrit Holst (Freie Universität Berlin).
- V. **"Responsible Research – Involving Circularity and Interdisciplinarity from the Beginning in the Research Process"** organized by Dr. Ponnapat Watjanatepin (KU Leuven), Prof. Dr. Rainer Haag, Prof. Dr. Sebastian Hasenstab-Riedel, Dr. Dagmara Weckowska, and Dr. Susanne Stein (Freie Universität Berlin)
- VI. **"Una Europa Student Project Incubator – GreenChem Hackathon"** organized by Dr. Svenja Herziger, Kirsten Schmiester, and Moritz Zöllner (Freie Universität Berlin)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Participants are welcome to submit proposals for the following workshops:

- "[University Sustainability Governance in Times of Transformation and Vibe Shifts](#)" [PDF]
- "[Teaching and Education for Sustainable Development](#)" [PDF]
- "[Finding the Right Voice: How Universities Can Communicate Sustainability Without Losing Credibility](#)" [PDF]
- "[Starting with a New Vibe: Handprint and Nature Positivity for Biodiversity](#)" [PDF]
- "[Responsible Research: Involving Circularity and Interdisciplinarity from the Beginning in the Research Process](#)" [PDF]
- "[Una Europa Student Project Incubator – GreenChem Hackathon](#)"* (open for students from Una Europa partner universities). *The Una Europa staff will be sharing additional details about the workshop in the near future on the [website](#).*

Please note that the conference will be held in person in Berlin.

Selected proposals will be published in our conference program and on our conference website.

If you are interested in publishing an extended version of your contribution in our conference editorial volume, you will find further information [here](#).

We look forward to receiving your proposals via our [conference registration platform](#).

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

The conference is linked to the development of an edited volume that highlights existing sustainability projects in an international context, reflects on their interaction, and discusses them in light of participatory negotiation processes.

The publication is aimed at authors from academia and university administration as well as transfer partners working on sustainability projects in or with higher education. It is intended to serve as a catalyst for the dynamic further development and international networking of sustainability initiatives.

Selected contributions from the Call for Proposals may also be published as articles in this editorial volume.

For further information please see [our website](#) or contact editorial volume lead Prof. Dr. Daniela Niesta-Kayser.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

March 20, 2026 – Preliminary conference program

March 30, 2026 – [Registration](#) opens

March 30, 2026 – Submission of contributions for [call for proposals](#) opens

June 10, 2026 – New deadline for submission of contributions for call for proposals

June 22, 2026 – Notification to authors

June 29, 2026 – Final conference program

August 31, 2026 – Registration closes

September 21 - 23, 2026 – Conference

REGISTRATION

Participation is limited to 150 places. Please register by August 31 using [this link](#).

Conference fee:

- €160, - regular price
- €80, - for students

The conference fee includes:

- Access to all sessions, the social program, and the excursions.
- Online access to the conference materials.
- Coffee breaks with light refreshments on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings and afternoons.
- Lunch on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- Welcome reception on Monday evening with light refreshments.
- Get-together on Tuesday evening with light refreshments.

The **conference dinner**, which is not included in the conference fee, will be held on September 23.

Participants are responsible for covering their own travel expenses.

- By registering, you agree that **film and photo recordings** may be made at the conference, and the social events.
- Our caterers will serve **vegetarian, vegan or gluten-free food**.
- **Accompanying persons** must register separately.
- There are separate categories for the **regular price** and for **students**. Please select the appropriate category during the registration process. Students are requested to upload their matriculation certificate at the end of the registration process.
- The **conference dinner** on Wednesday has limited capacity. You can book it on a first-come, first-served basis during the registration process.
- To help us better plan our **networking events** on Monday and Tuesday, please indicate your expected attendance when registering.
- We want to make our event as **accessible** as possible, so please contact us if there's anything we can do to help! We will do our best to find suitable solutions.

Terms of Payment:

- The registration of participation is binding.
- If you cancel your registration at least 30 days before the event begins, 80% of the fees will be refunded. In all other cases, your financial obligations remain in full force.
- The registration fee is due immediately upon registration and must be paid within 7 days of submitting the registration form (but no later than 7 days before the start of the event).
- You are only entitled to participate once the full participation fee has been received.
- The conference program may be subject to changes.
- Payments will be refunded if the conference will be canceled by the organizer. In that case, the organizer will have no further liability to the client. Registrations remain valid if the conference has to be postponed.
- For any cancellation, you must send an email to Moritz Zöllner of the organizing team (events@nachhaltigkeit.fu-berlin.de).

VENUE

Dahlem Campus

The conference is hosted by Freie Universität Berlin and will take place at Holzlaube / Department of History and Cultural Studies on Freie Universität's campus in Berlin-Dahlem, Fabeckstr. 23-25, 14195 Berlin ([Flyer-Holzlaube](#)).

Habelschwerdter Allee 45 (the "Rost- and Silberlaube") and Fabeck Street 23-25 ("Holzlaube") together are the location of the largest university building complex in Dahlem. The complex houses several humanities and social science subjects, as well as 14 smaller departments from the Department of History and Cultural Studies.

Various institutes and departments are spread over the Dahlem campus. The School of Business and Economics, the Department of Law, and the Otto Suhr Institute for Political Sciences are all situated near the Henry Ford Building and the University Library.

North of Habelschwerdter Allee 45 are the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, the Department of Biology, Chemistry and Pharmacy, and the Department of Physics as well as the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies.

Also included on the Dahlem campus is the 106-acre one-of-a-kind Botanic Garden containing more than 20,000 wild plants.

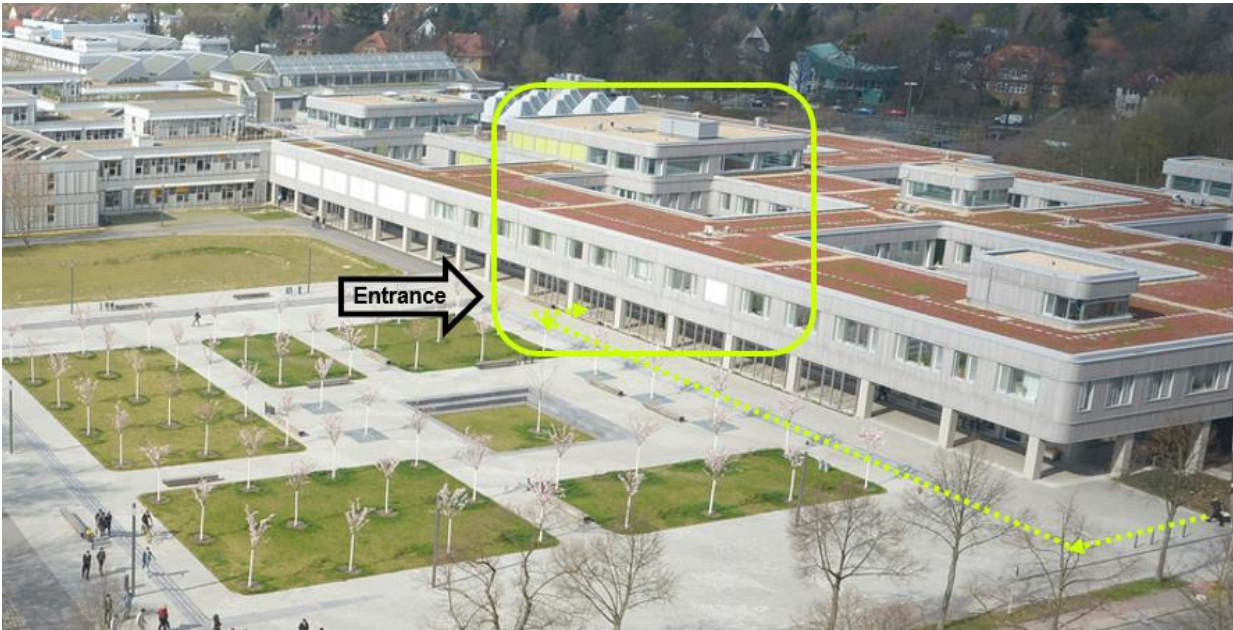
Directions to the conference rooms

The conference rooms (from room - 1.2009 in the basement to room 2.2059 on the 2nd floor) are located in the *Holzlaube* ("wooden cottage"). The *Holzlaube* is located on the Dahlem campus, Fabeckstr. 23-25 (see image 2) and looks like this:

Image 1: Holzlaube ("wooden cottage")_Image source: Bernd Wannemacher

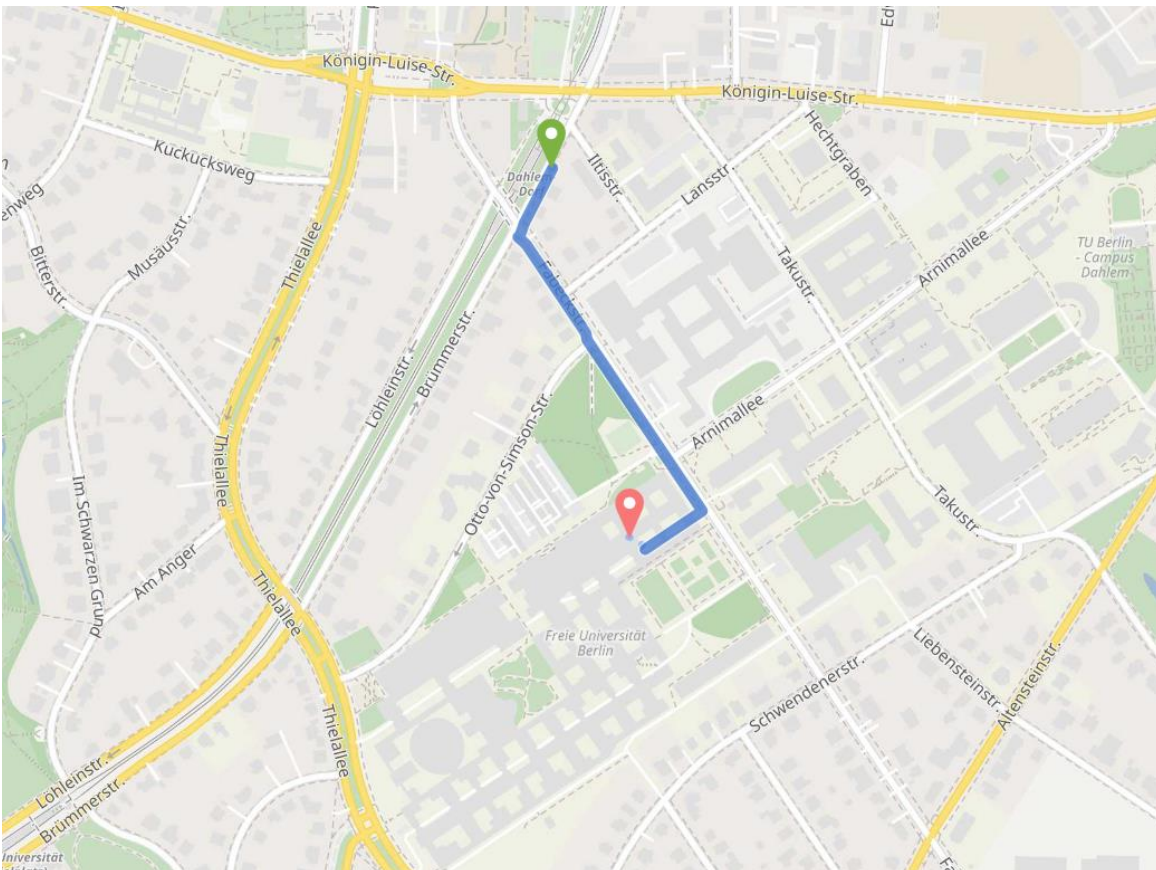


Image 2: Holzlaube (“wooden cottage”) _Image source: Freie Universität Berlin



We recommend using the convenient U-Bahn connection to the nearby station *Dahlem Dorf*, or one of the many green bike lanes leading to our campus. The distance from station *Dahlem Dorf* to Fabeckstraße 23-25 is approximately 500 meters.

Image 3: From the subway station to the conference venue _Image source: Graphhopper map



If you are coming from Fabeckstraße:

Take the entrance marked in black (see image 2). You will need to walk about 100 meters along the building (see image 4). Then go through the entrance and walk to the middle of the building and take the middle stairs/elevator.

Image 4: Entrance to the building_ Image source: Freie Universität Berlin



OFFERS FOR FAMILIES

If you are traveling with your family and are bringing your children to the conference, the following offers might be of interest to you.

Game bags

We offer game bags with puzzles, books, coloring games, etc. at the registration desk. They are suitable for different age groups. We also have a range of outdoor games, such as ring throwing or a balance board, for you to borrow.

ACCESSIBILITY

We want to make our event as accessible as possible, so please do let us know when registering how we can support you in participating. We will do our best to find suitable solutions.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION

You can travel around Berlin easily by subway (U-Bahn) and train (S-Bahn), bus and tram. You can find Information on tickets and prices [here](#). The easiest way to search for connections and buy tickets is to use the official BVG app, which you can download [here](#).

Getting to Berlin

Freie Universität Berlin has declared a climate emergency in 2019 and is committed to attaining climate neutrality by 2025. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to consider travelling to our conference in a climate-friendly way.

Getting to Berlin **by train**

- During **daytime** there are a large number of direct international connections to Berlin, in particular from/to Amsterdam (6:30h), Basel/Bern (7:20h), Bratislava (8:30h), Budapest (11h), Graz, Paris (8:00h), Prague (4h), Vienna (8:20h), Warsaw (5h) and Zurich (8:30h). Additionally, there are a number of convenient international connections with only one transfer.
 - from Brussels via Cologne (6:30h)
 - from Strasbourg via Mannheim/Karlsruhe/Frankfurt (6:30h)
 - from Marseille, Aix-en-Provence, Avignon and Lyon via Frankfurt (12:15h/10:15h)
 - from Kopenhagen via Hamburg (7h)
 - from Ljubljana, Villach and Salzburg via Munich
 - from Bologna, Verona and Innsbruck via Munich
- Tickets can be purchased from the Deutsche Bahn [here](#).
- Additionally, there are several direct **overnight** trains to Berlin from/to Amsterdam, Basel, Bratislava, Brussels, Budapest, Graz, Copenhagen, Paris, Prague, Stockholm, Strasbourg, Vienna and Zurich. For a list of the respective operators and ticketing platforms, see [here](#).

Getting to Berlin **by plane**

Berlin has only one airport - [Berlin Brandenburg Airport \(BER\)](#) - located 25 km south-east of Berlin. There are direct flights to many European cities, but the range of flights is somewhat narrower than you would expect from a capital airport.

Arriving in Berlin

Getting from **train stations** to **Freie Universität Berlin**

If your train also calls at Berlin Südkreuz or at Berlin Spandau, it is recommended that you disembark at these stations (whichever comes first) to reach Freie Universität Berlin more efficiently. Otherwise (and to get to the city center) disembark at Berlin Hauptbahnhof (central station). In each case the fare is 4,00€ one-way (Berlin AB fare zone).

- From **Berlin Südkreuz** take S41 (circle line clockwise), at Heidelberger Platz change to the U3 in the direction of Krumme Lanke and get off at Dahlem Dorf. Current connections can be found [here](#).

- From **Berlin Spandau** take U7 in the direction of Rudow, at Fehrbelliner Platz change to U3 in the direction of Krumme Lanke and get off at Dahlem Dorf. Current connections and alternative itineraries can be found [here](#).
- From **Berlin Hauptbahnhof** take any S-Bahn (S3, S5, S7, S9 - in the direction of either Potsdam, Spandau or Westkreuz), at Zoologischer Garten change to U9 in the direction of Rathaus Steglitz, at Spichernstraße change again to U3 in the direction of Krumme Lanke and get off at Dahlem Dorf. Current connections can be found [here](#).

Getting from the **airport** to **Freie Universität Berlin**

There are two recommended ways to get from BER Airport to Freie Universität Berlin by public transport. In both cases, the journey time is approx. 1 hour and the fare is 5,00€ one-way (Berlin ABC fare zone). Current connections and (slower) alternatives can be found [here](#).

- Take regional trains (**RE**), **FEX** to Ostkreuz. At Ostkreuz change to **S41** (circle line clockwise), at Heidelberger Platz change to U3 in the direction of Krumme Lanke and get off at Dahlem Dorf.
- Take **S9** in the direction of Berlin Spandau. At S+U Warschauer Straße change to **U3** in the direction of Krumme Lanke and get off at Dahlem Dorf.

Getting from **Freie Universität Berlin** to the **airport**

- Take U3 from Dahlem Dorf in the direction of Warschauer Straße. At Heidelberger Platz change to S42 or S46 (circle line counterclockwise) and get off at Südkreuz. Take regional trains (**RE**), **FEX** to Flughafen BER.
- Alternatively, take U3 from Dahlem Dorf in the direction of Warschauer Straße. At Fehrbelliner Platz change to U7 in the direction of Rudow, at Rudow change to Bus X7 or X71 to Flughafen BER.

Getting from the **airport** to the **city center**

To get from BER Airport to the city center, several options are available. All are direct connections and the fare is 5,00€ one-way (Berlin ABC fare zone). On regional trains, the journey takes approx. 15 minutes to Ostkreuz, 25 minutes to Alexanderplatz and 30-35 minutes to Berlin Hauptbahnhof (central station)

- **FEX** (Airport Express) departs every 30 minutes and calls at Ostkreuz, Gesundbrunnen, and Berlin Hauptbahnhof
- **Other regional trains (RE)** depart alternately at different times and call at Ostkreuz, Ostbahnhof, Alexanderplatz, Friedrichstraße, Berlin Hauptbahnhof, Zoologischer Garten and Charlottenburg.
- S9 departs every 60 minutes and takes the same route as the regional trains, but also calls at intermediary stops.

There are also five different car rental companies stationed in Terminal 1, as well a taxi rank and multiple types of carsharing providers. More information can be found on the [airport website](#).

Getting to **Freie Universität Berlin**

The university is served by the underground train U3 at the station Dahlem Dorf. The U3 connects to the circle line S41/S42. Multiple busses (101, 110, 115, 285, 623, X10, M11, M48) and the S-Bahn S1 are a walkable distance (up to 20 minutes) from campus.

ACCOMODATION

Due to the limited capacity of hotel rooms in Berlin, we have made reservations at several hotels across the city. The hotels are located at varying distances from the venue. Upon completion of the registration process, a code will be provided for the reservation of your room. Please find below a brief overview.



In addition to hotels, guests can choose from a variety of accommodations, including apartments, hostels, and guesthouses.

Due to the limited availability of hotel rooms, we advise you to reserve your accommodations as soon as possible.

[Apartment Hotel Dahlem](#) (U-Bhf Oskar-Helene-Heim)

- There are six double rooms available for one person to rent from September 20–23, 2026. Each room has its own private bathroom.
- Price / night / person or per room: €147.00 (Includes breakfast and tax)
- Rooms available: 6
- Distance to the venue (approx. km): 2,4
- Approximate travel time by public transportation: 15 minutes

[Hotel Eckstein in Berlin Steglitz](#) (U-Bhf Schlosstrasse)

- There are 10 single rooms available from September 20–23, 2026. Each room has a shower, toilet, TV, and Wi-Fi.
- Price / night / person or per room: €149.00 (The room rate includes breakfast, sales tax, and service.)
- Rooms available: 10

- Distance to the venue (approx. km): 2,4
- Approximate travel time by public transportation: 18 minutes

Hotel Morgenland (Bus M11 Karwendelstrasse)

- There are five single rooms and five rooms for two people (double room) available from September 20–23, 2026.
- Price / night / person or per room: single room for €141.00 and double room for €167.00 (Breakfast is included with each room.)
- Rooms available: 5 single rooms and 5 double rooms
- Distance to the venue (approx. km): 3,5
- Approximate travel time by public transportation: 17 minutes

Hotel Berliner Bär (S + U-Bhf Tempelhof)

- There are two rooms for one person and eight rooms for two people (double room) available from September 20–23, 2026.
- Price / night / person or per room: single room for €164.00 and double room for €198.00 (Breakfast is not included. There is an additional tax charge.)
- Rooms available: 5 single rooms and 5 double rooms
- Distance to the venue (approx. km): 9,3
- Approximate travel time by public transportation: 38 minutes

HOTEL BONVERDE (S-Bhf Wannsee)

- There are six double rooms available for one person to rent from September 21–23, 2026. Each room has its own private bathroom.
- Price / night / person or per room: €70.00 (Breakfast is not included. There is an additional tax charge.)
- Rooms available: 6
- Distance to the venue (approx. km): 11,2
- Approximate travel time by public transportation: 34 minutes

martas Hotel Berlin-Mitte (S-Bhf Oranienburger Strasse) **Please contact the conference team for booking.*

- There are two single rooms and one double room available from September 21–23, 2026.
- Price / night / person or per room: single room for €79.00 and double room for €99.00 (Breakfast is not included. Tax is included.)
- Rooms available: 2 single rooms and 1 double room
- Distance to the venue (approx. km): 13
- Approximate travel time by public transportation: 46 minutes

Hotel Graf Pückler (S + U-Bhf Wedding)

- There are two rooms with three beds (1 double bed + 1 single bed) available from September 21–23, 2026. Each room has a shower and a toilet.
- Price / night / person or per room: €145.00 / room (Breakfast and tax are not included.)
- Rooms available: 2
- Distance to the venue (approx. km): 14,2
- Approximate travel time by public transportation: 46 minutes

Hotel Süden (U-Bhf Zwickauer Damm)

- There are three rooms that can accommodate two people each "comfort double rooms", one room that can accommodate three people "triple room", and one room that can accommodate one person "comfort single room" available from September 20–23, 2026.
- Price / night / person or per room: comfort double rooms for €75.00, triple room for €85.00, and comfort single room for €60.00 (Breakfast and tax are not included.)
- Rooms available: 1 single room, 3 double rooms, and 1 triple room
- Distance to the venue (approx. km): 15,3
- Approximate travel time by public transportation: 58 minutes

Hotel Aviv / Aparthotel Guzulka (U-Bhf Zwickauer Damm; Bus M11 Neuköllner Str./Zwickauer D.)

- There is one single room and one double room available from September 20–23, 2026.
- Price / night / person or per room: single room for €85.00 and double room for €95.00 (Neither room includes breakfast or city tax.)
- Rooms available: 1 single room and 1 double room
- Distance to the venue (approx. km): 16,3
- Approximate travel time by public transportation: 52 minutes

Hotel mit Mensch (S-Bhf Karlshorst)

- This is a wheelchair-accessible hotel. There are ten single rooms available from September 20–23, 2026.
- Price / night / person or per room: €83,72 (Neither room includes breakfast or city tax.)
- Rooms available: 10
- Distance to the venue (approx. km): 18,8
- Approximate travel time by public transportation: 60 minutes

Other suggestions

- [Hotel-Pension Enzian](#) (S-Bhf Botanischer Garten)
- [Hotel Landhaus Schlachtensee](#) (S-Bhf Mexikoplatz)
- [Hotel Pension Dahlem](#) (S-Bhf Lichterfelde West)
- [Hotel Anna 1908](#)*** (U-Bhf Walther-Schreiber-Platz)
- [Ku`Damm 101](#)**** (S-Bhf Halensee)

Sustainable alternatives

Some hotels in Berlin have been certified and awarded for their dedication to sustainability: [List of Eco-Hotels: Sustainable Accomodation in Berlin](#).

SIGHTSEEING

Parks, culture and more

While Berlin is a large urban region, it is also home to vast parklands such as Grunewald, Treptower Park, or the Gardens of the World, and a myriad of bridges crisscrossing the rivers and canals. These features give the city not only a feeling of spaciousness, but also of remarkable green beauty. Tempelhof Airport was closed in 2008 and transformed into a public park, now hosting exciting activities and sites of interest, such as art exhibitions, collective urban gardening, and recreation. Thanks to a recent public initiative, there is an increase in traffic of bicycles and electric cars. Further information can be found [here](#).

If you are looking for other things to do, [Berlin's official homepage](#) offers an overview of goings-on in the city.

[Freie Universität](#), along with Berlin's three other universities — [Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin](#), [Technische Universität zu Berlin](#), and [Universität der Künste Berlin](#) — host thought-provoking public lectures and events.

Our [Sustainable Campus Tour](#) gives you an overview of the university's most important sustainability activities. The Sustainable Campus Tour has a total of 16 stations on the main campus in Dahlem.

To learn more about the country in general, take a look at [Facts about Germany](#), a reference book offering all sorts of up-to-date information about Germany.

Food

Although Berlin is certainly a vegetarian and vegan-friendly city, finding a vegan eatery isn't always a given. This [restaurant map](#) shows a variety of vegan restaurants in Berlin. If you have a smartphone, you can download the [Berlin Vegan Guide App](#) with information about vegan restaurants and cafés.

Map

The [Map of Berlin city centre](#) helps you to get around.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency call: 112

[What to do in case of a medical emergency?](#)

First Aid kits are available:

- at conference registration desk
- from the first responders

Automatic External Defibrillator ([AED](#))

Closest **location** concerning the venue: Fabeckstr. 23-25 – Campus library, information desk. Further [locations](#).

FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

Freie Universität Berlin was founded in 1948 in response to the increasing political repression at the traditional Berlin university on Unter den Linden, which at that time was located in the Soviet sector of the divided city. Freie Universität Berlin emerged victorious in the three rounds of the German federal and state Excellence Competitions for universities in 2006/2007, 2012, and 2019, and was recognized as a German University of Excellence.

With around 34,400 students, 4,730 staff members, and over 230 buildings, Freie Universität Berlin is an international network university committed to all aspects of sustainability, including research, education, campus management, and transfer. This whole-institution approach is also how we organize the conference program.

Universities—as the core institutions of the academic and educational systems—have a special responsibility with regard to making the world sustainable, and Freie Universität Berlin is committed to this task. It strives to increase sustainability across the university—in research, teaching, knowledge transfer, administration, and on campus. The university participates in the academic discourse on the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, and in their implementation in the university’s own area of responsibility.

In 2019, when Freie Universität took the bold step as the first German university to declare a climate emergency, it set seven ambitious sub-targets. In line with its values, a broad-based participatory process developed strategic options for implementing these goals and established the first concrete instruments and measures. Following an internal university review and discussion, the university leadership decided to adjust the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2025. As a result, the university will no longer pursue climate neutrality by purchasing external CO2 offset certificates. Instead, the focus will be on promoting climate protection and biodiversity through a new internal university fund.

The [Unit for Sustainability and Energy Management](#) is responsible for the regulation and coordination of sustainability management.

CONFERENCE TEAM

We look forward to welcoming all participants to the first International *Sustainability in Higher Education Conference* in Berlin!



The conference is organized by Moritz Zöllner, Andreas Wanke, Prof. Daniela Niesta-Kayser, Katrin Schweigel, Rebecca Rongstock, and Sabine Heckmann (Freie Universität Berlin).

If you have any questions about our conference, don't hesitate to contact Moritz Zöllner of our conference team: events@nachhaltigkeit.fu-berlin.de. You can also approach us right at the conference registration desk on the ground floor.