

Privacy policy

Data protection information on the processing of personal data in accordance with Art. 13 GDPR

Online survey of scientists / Berlin Science Survey project and TransferSurvey

(1) Description of the processing activity

What is the Berlin Science Survey?

The *Berlin Science Survey (BSS)* is a long-term scientific observation of the Berlin research landscape with a view to changes in research culture and research practices. To this end, the experiences and opinions of scientists are surveyed at regular intervals. The research results critically accompany the measures taken by the Berlin University Alliance and provide important insights for science research. Further information on the study can be found at <http://www.berlinsciencesurvey.de>.

The project is funded by the Berlin University Alliance (BUA) and is part of Objective 3 (<https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/commitments/research-quality/index.html>).

What is the TransferSurvey?

The TransferSurvey is a monitoring tool funded by the Berlin Senate to measure knowledge transfer in the region. For science within the Berlin research area, this instrument offers the opportunity for self-reflection, orientation and optimisation of framework conditions and incentive systems for more effective transfer.

The project is financed by the Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises (SenWEB). Further information on the study can be found at:

<https://www.rmz.hu-berlin.de/de/forschungsaktivitaeten/transfer>

Who conducts the BSS?

The BSS and the TransferSurvey are conducted at the Robert K. Merton Centre for Science Studies (RMZ).

The RMZ is an interdisciplinary centre at Humboldt University in Berlin dedicated to researching the functioning of the science system. Detailed information about us and a range of publications can be found at <https://www.rmz.hu-berlin.de/de> or <https://www.rmz.hu-berlin.de/de/forschungsaktivitaeten/berliner-forschungslandschaft>

How did you receive the invitation to participate in the survey?

You have received this invitation because you are a researcher (professor, doctoral candidate or non-doctoral research assistant) at one of Germany's universities or research institutions. We have used various methods to invite all researchers.

I. Address research on the websites of research institutions

In most cases, your name and email address (contact details) were taken manually or semi-automatically from your institution's website. Your contact details are not part of a mailing list and will only be used to send you the invitation and reminder to participate in the *Berlin Science Survey*.

II. Forwarding of the survey invitation (internal communication channels)

For some institutions, it was not possible to obtain contact details, so invitations were sent via internal mailing lists of the respective institution. As a result, the invitation letters are not personalised and no personalised reminders are sent. In these cases, we do not have any contact details. As of December 2025, this applies to the following institutions:

Charité, Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing, Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, DLR Institute of Optical Sensor Systems, DLR Institute of Planetary Research, DLR Institute of Transportation Systems, Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, Helmholtz Centre Berlin for Materials and Energy (HZB), Leibniz Institute for Crystal Growth, Max Planck Research Unit for the Science of Pathogens (MPUSP), Paul Drude Institute for Solid State Electronics and Robert Koch Institute.

(2) Name and contact details of the controller

The responsible party pursuant to Art. 4 GDPR is Humboldt University of Berlin, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin.

The RMZ, Schönhauser Allee 10/11, in 10119 Berlin, represented by its director Prof. Dr. Martin Reinhart and deputy director Prof. Dr. Vivien Petras, is internally responsible for the study and its implementation. Furthermore, Dr. Jens Ambrasat as project manager of the BSS and the TransferSurvey, as well as Dr. Denise Lüdtke (BSS) and Leonie Schwichtenberg (TransferSurvey) are involved in the survey as project staff.

Contact details of the project staff:

Jens Ambrasat, jens.ambrasat@hu-berlin.de, tel. 030-2093-65882

Denise Lüdtke, denise.luedtke@hu-berlin.de, Tel. 030-2093-65891

Leonie Schwichtenberg, leonie.schwichtenberg@hu-berlin.de, Tel. 030-2093-65884

(3) Contact details of the data protection officers:

Gesine Hoffmann-Holland, datenschutz@uv.hu-berlin.de, Tel. 030-2093-20020

Postal address:

Humboldt University of Berlin
Official Data Protection Officer
Unter den Linden 6
10099 Berlin

(4) Purposes and legal basis for processing:

What happens to your data?

Data is collected exclusively for scientific purposes at the RMZ as part of the Berlin Science Survey and TransferSurvey research projects.

Your contact details will be used to send you invitation letters and, if necessary, reminder letters. The legal basis for data processing (use of contact details for invitations and reminders to participate in the study) is Art. 6 (1) (e) GDPR in conjunction with § 4 BerlHG, § 3 BInDSG (fulfilment of tasks).

In addition, we use your contact details to invite you to participate in further surveys as part of the Berlin Science Survey and TransferSurvey projects and to participate in our prize draw (in particular to contact you in the event of a win). The legal basis here is your consent to participate (Art. 6 (1) (a) GDPR).

The legal basis for the processing of survey data is also your consent to participate in the survey (Art. 6(1)(a) GDPR).

What data is collected and how?

The survey is conducted using the online survey software Limesurvey provided by Humboldt University of Berlin on the servers of Humboldt University of Berlin. During the survey, two different types of data are collected: Your content information (hereinafter referred to as *survey data*) and technical information about the survey: the time at which you answered the questions, your progress (or abandonment) and the duration of the survey (so-called *paradata*). This information is necessary for the smooth running of the survey, reminder letters and subsequent data processing to ensure data quality.

Survey data includes information on research practices, attitudes and opinions, as well as structural characteristics such as gender, department and status group.

If you would like to participate in our prize draw for 30 hammocks, 30 Dopper water bottles and 30 culture vouchers for cultural events in Berlin after completing the actual survey, you will be redirected to a separate survey where you can enter your contact details. The draw will be made at random from all participants who provide their name and email address at the end of the survey. The closing date for entries is 28 February 2026. Participation in the prize draw is voluntary. The contact details provided in the separate prize draw survey will be stored separately from your previous answers and cannot be linked to the survey data.

The results of the survey are anonymous and cannot be traced back to individuals. If it were possible to trace the responses back to individuals based on combinations of answers, the raw survey data would be processed in such a way as to prevent this. It is not desirable for responses to be traceable to individuals at any time, and any such traceability would be removed immediately. The RMZ project team evaluates *survey data* for scientific purposes in scientific research. In publications, results are only presented in aggregated form so that no conclusions can be drawn about individuals. For the purpose of archiving and reuse by other scientists and students, the data is anonymised and processed as Scientific Use Files (SUF).

(5) Recipients or categories of recipients of personal data

The recipient of the data is exclusively the project team at the RMZ. No personal data will be passed on to third parties.

(6) Duration of storage of personal data:

The contact details of persons who have not consented to participate in the study will be deleted after the end of the field phase, at the latest on 30 June 2025.

The *contact details* of persons who have consented to participate in the study will be used exclusively by the RMZ project team to send invitations and reminders for further surveys within the project. These contact details will be deleted upon completion of the "Berlin Science Survey" project.

The contact details we receive as part of the prize draw will be deleted at the end of the prize draw, but no later than 4 weeks after the prize draw.

The contact details will be treated as strictly confidential and will not be passed on to third parties – even the Limesurvey administration will not have access to the data. They will be stored separately from the *survey data* collected in the survey.

If you wish to notify us of any changes to your contact details, please contact us at the following email address: rmz-berlinsciencesurvey@hu-berlin.de

You can object to the use of your contact details at any time. To do so, simply send an email to: rmz-berlinsciencesurvey@hu-berlin.de. If you object to the use of your contact details, we will delete your contact details (name, status group, gender and email address) from our address database and at the same time note your email address in a separate database. This so-called blacklisting is used for comparison purposes when sending out new mailings and prevents us from writing again to persons who have objected to being contacted.

(7) Rights of data subjects, cancellation policy, right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority

With regard to your personal data, you can assert the following rights against the controller at any time the following rights with regard to your personal data:

- Right to information about your stored data in accordance with Art. 15 GDPR: If an applicant's personal data is processed, they have a fundamental right to information about this data
- Right to rectification of your data: pursuant to Art. 16 GDPR: This right allows a data subject to request the immediate rectification of inaccurate or incomplete data processed about themselves
- Right to restriction of the purposes for which the data is used pursuant to Art. 18 GDPR: The data subject has the right to request the controller to restrict processing
- Right to erasure pursuant to Art. 17 GDPR: The data subject has the *right* to request that the controller erase personal data concerning them without delay.
- Right to object pursuant to Art. 21 GDPR: The data subject has the right to object at any time, on grounds relating to their particular situation, to the processing of personal data concerning them which is based on Article 6(1)(e) or (f).
- Right to withdraw your consent with effect for the future pursuant to Art. 7 GDPR: The data subject has the *right* to *withdraw their consent* at any time.

You also have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority in a Member State. The competent supervisory authority for Humboldt University Berlin is the Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, Alt-Moabit 59-61, 10555 Berlin, mailbox@datenschutz-berlin.de .

In addition, data subjects have the right to contact the Data Protection Officer of Humboldt University of Berlin, Gesine Hoffmann-Holland, tel: +49 (30) 2093-20022, email:datenschutz@uv.hu-berlin.de , and submit their concerns.

If you wish to exercise any of the above rights, or if you would like information about the research project as a whole, please contact the research team at the following email address: rmz-berlinsciencesurvey@hu-berlin.de