



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
ACADEMIC CHAIRS KNOWLEDGE HUB
'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE' 2025
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - CIRCLE U. ACADEMIC CHAIRS KNOWLEDGE HUB 'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE'

Become a Circle U. Academic Chair for the new Knowledge Hub 'Artificial Intelligence'!

After establishing three successful Knowledge Hubs on climate, democracy and global health, Circle U. launches its fourth knowledge hub on Artificial Intelligence (AI). All partner universities will nominate Academic Chairs to collaboratively develop this Hub. The new Knowledge Hub is led by Francesco Marcelloni (Università di Pisa) as Academic Director and coordinated jointly by Univerzitet u Beogradu and Università di Pisa. The academic chairs dedicate 20% of their working time to the development of teaching activities and are located at their home university.

ABOUT CIRCLE U.

Aarhus Universitet (Denmark), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany), King's College London (United Kingdom), Università di Pisa (Italy), Universität Wien (Austria), Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium), Université Paris Cité (France), Universitetet i Oslo (Norway) and Univerzitet u Beogradu (Serbia) are Circle U.: an inclusive, research-intensive, and interdisciplinary European university alliance working to provide outstanding education, research, and innovation to contribute to more sustainable, democratic, and healthier societies. With the current EU-funded project Circle U. 2030, Circle U. is testing out new concepts in higher education and research cooperation, while also scaling up and offering a range of flexible learning opportunities, intensifying our collaborations and maximizing our impacts through our joint ecosystem.

For additional information on Circle U., please visit our website: www.circle-u.eu.

ABOUT THE KNOWLEDGE HUB 'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE'

AI is expected to have a significant impact on humans and society. Thus, its development should not only meet technical requirements like accuracy and computational performance but also consider ethical, legal, economic and social aspects. The Knowledge Hub on AI will address the **challenge of human-centered, inclusive, and equitable AI**, promoting the development and application of robust, ethical, safe, trustworthy, and sustainable AI systems. This will be achieved through a **multidisciplinary approach**, with each area of expertise playing a key role.

Launched in the pilot phase, Circle U.'s Knowledge Hubs are shared physical and virtual spaces where academics, researchers, students, staff and partners are developing research-based, trans- and interdisciplinary educational and research activities to tackle big societal challenges linked to our four priority themes: climate, democracy, global health, and artificial intelligence. **The new Knowledge Hub on AI will be launched in November 2024 and Academic Chairs will be appointed on a rolling base until January 2025.**

The Knowledge Hub serves as a convergence point for diverse disciplines, each approaching AI from unique perspectives. The strength of the Knowledge Hub will stem from this synergy, enabling the development and application of AI in a manner that upholds the fundamental rights of all human beings.

As a starting point, **the new Knowledge Hub will gather information on all research, educational, and technology transfer activities related to AI at the individual universities.** This will encompass not only the technological aspects of AI but also its potential applications across various fields, and its societal and individual implications. The goal is to obtain a comprehensive understanding of how AI is currently being approached at each university. Afterward, the collected data will be analyzed to identify opportunities for potential collaborations in research, education, and technology transfer.

We aim to foster **joint project submissions, the development of potential double degree programs that leverage the unique strengths of each university, joint technology transfer initiatives, and AI outreach efforts.** To speed up this process, we plan to organize annual workshops to encourage collaboration within the Alliance, annual summer schools for PhD students with socialization events, and launch calls for interest when the European Commission opens relevant project opportunities. We will also issue calls for joint master thesis proposals and promote the exchange of visiting professors and co-supervision of PhD students.

ABOUT THE ACADEMIC CHAIRS

Since the launch of Circle U., the Academic Chair Programme has been the backbone of our alliance's ecosystem, ensuring strong, sustainable and concrete networks between academics, researchers, students, and associated and global partners. The Academic Chair Programme ensures strong and sustainable connections across our universities, between education, research and service, between students and staff, and between our universities and the society.

The academic chairs are the enablers of our vision and mission. They **drive bottom-up initiatives and collaborations across the alliance** to ensure that the alliance reaches its full potential, as well as helping embed Circle U. in our communities and involving other stakeholders. Through the programme, the academic chairs have the opportunity to **test new and innovative ideas, to establish strong links to leading education and research environments at the most prestigious European universities, and to be at the forefront of new developments in socially engaged education and research.**

The academic chairs also **contribute to the realization of the EU-funded projects** and the corresponding work programme by developing activities linked to specific deliverables and milestones. In this perspective, the academic chairs will work in partnership – and be supported by – the respective Work Package coordinators and leads, comprising an interdisciplinary and intersectoral team of academics, administrative staff and student representatives.

The academic chairs dedicate **20% of their working time to the development of activities** and are located at their home university. But they are expected to spend time at other Circle U. partner universities and to attend meetings to facilitate collaboration, communication, and dissemination.

Beyond the strong academic and scientific profile, expertise and experience in fields directly related to the Knowledge Hub on Artificial Intelligence, we are looking for people who can bring **exciting and innovative ideas, an interdisciplinary profile, and a strong commitment to linking education and research to foster transformative impacts on society.**

The academic chairs are also expected to have excellent communication skills in English, both oral and written. Proficiency in other European languages used by the Circle U. partners will be an advantage.

The **main role and missions** of the academic chairs are to:

- Develop and lead challenge-based as well as trans- and inter-disciplinary teaching, learning and research initiatives;
- Link education and research within and across disciplines;

- Engage students to take an active role in knowledge creation and socially engaged research and innovation;
- Stimulate new models of academic and research collaboration and partnership, and share them across the alliance;
- Contribute to the realisation of the EU-funded projects and the corresponding work programme;
- Represent and champion Circle U. internally, nationally, and internationally, as well as with external stakeholders.

RECRUITMENT

The academic chairs are recruited from academic, research and teaching staff under permanent or longer-term temporary contract in one of the partner universities. **We are seeking academic chairs at all career stages.** Given that vacancies for the academic chairs are different in the partner universities and recruitment is also dependent on funding, the number of academic chairs appointed may vary at each university. **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin has a vacancy for 1 Academic Chair for the Knowledge Hub “Artificial Intelligence”.**

TERMS

The academic chairs have a **two-year term**, with the potential for a further extension of up to two years. The academic chair dedicates **20% of their working time to Circle U.** Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin allocates an **annual budget** for each of its Academic Chairs to organize events and activities that contribute to their mission within Circle U.

Each university will have the flexibility to decide on the renewal process of the current chairs, which should include elements of assessment. In the same perspective, each university could decide of a longer term to ensure continuity but should also consider the necessity to reach out more academics.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Together, we support an inclusive culture, equality and diversity for our staff and students. We are committed to encouraging further growth from diverse groups, and we are committed to ensuring that the Academic Chair Programme includes academics, researchers and teachers of all abilities and under-represented groups.

APPLICATION

Please send your completed application form (see Annexe) to berlin@circle-u.eu by **15th November 2024**. Final results will be announced by **20 December 2024**. The position is to commence by **January 2025**.

ANNEXE – APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF ACADEMIC CHAIR FOR THE CIRCLE U. KNOWLEDGE HUB 'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE'

Send your completed Application Form to berlin@circle-u.eu by 15th November 2024.

1 ABOUT YOURSELF

First name	
Last name	
Job title	
Department/School	
Faculty	
Email address	

2 PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Please indicate what kinds of projects and initiatives you would seek to undertake as part of your role as Academic Chair (you may select more than one):

Your choice	Project/Initiative
	Development of a joint study programme or blended learning offering
	Development of an internship programme in the private sector or in research
	Create integrated & innovative mobility schemes
	Foster targeted multilingual opportunities
	Establish and foster cooperation with non-EU partners
	Strengthen and develop cooperation with Associated Partners
	Secure third-party funding for strategic and multidisciplinary projects
	Support early career research activities

3 STATEMENT OF MOTIVATION

Please provide a Letter of Intent stating why you are applying for this role, including a brief description of your proposed project/initiative(s) (max 400 words)/

4 ENDORSEMENT

Please seek the endorsement from your Head of Department/Head of School AND your Faculty Executive Dean with their signature. (If Head of Department is yourself, please seek endorsement from a senior academic of the Faculty, such as Vice Deans of the Faculty.)

Dear selection panel member for the Circle U Academic Chair Programme,

With this statement, I would like to express my support for **(academic's name)** to apply to the Circle U Academic Chair Programme. I have read the Terms of Reference for the Academic Chair; I am aware that the Academic Chair will be expected to dedicate approximately 20% of their time on Circle U activities. Our Department/School will provide the necessary support for **(academic's name)** to make suitable arrangements to help them to achieve their objectives for Circle U.

(Please add any further comments if applicable).

(Please print your full name here)

Head of Department/Head of School, **(Department/School name)**

(Please print your full name here)

Executive Dean, **(Faculty name)**

5 CV

Please attach a short CV to this application form.