

YOU'VE GOT A BOLD IDEA FROM YOUR RESEARCH – NOW WHAT?

Whether it's a spark or already taking shape: The Top-Talents-Track is your launchpad to turn your innovation into impact.

Benefits of the Top-Talents-Track

The programme offers selected participants a unique opportunity for personal and professional growth:

- **Kick-Off Event in Berlin**
Start your journey with an inspiring in-person event to connect with peers and mentors. Travel scholarships are provided.
- **Digital Workshops and Career Talks**
Engage in expert-led sessions on future skills and the founder mindset—from storytelling to innovation. Featuring role models who share their personal entrepreneurial journeys.
- **Peer-to-Peer Exchange**
Collaborate in interactive formats over the three-month programme to share experiences, ideas, and insights with like-minded peers.
- **Personalised Career Consultations**
Receive one-on-one guidance to shape your next steps and connect with YES partner organizations, including university innovation centers.
- **Networking Opportunities**
Meet entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, trainers, researchers, and consultants. Learn from their successes—and failures—to shape your own path.
- **Visibility & Reach**
Gain recognition through YES communication channels to boost your ideas and projects.

Selection Criteria

We welcome applicants from research who:

- are currently doing a PhD or have completed a PhD
- are affiliated with a German University or research institution
- have a concrete start-up idea
- demonstrate innovative thinking and a commitment to advancing their field or project
- Are proactive, collaborative, and eager to contribute to the programme's community.

Applicants are selected based on their entrepreneurial drive, the potential breakthrough of their idea, and their willingness to actively engage. We especially encourage women and marginalised groups to apply. **Please feel encouraged to apply if your idea is not fully developed.**

Timeline

Kick-Off in Berlin

20.03. Module 1 Teamwork & Intercultural Conflict

Online Workshops (and career talks)

27.03. Module 2 Pitch Deck Design & Storytelling

10.04. Module 3 Finance & Funding

17.04. Module 4 Design Thinking & AI Part 1

24.04. Module 4 Design Thinking & AI Part 2

30.04. Module 4 Design Thinking & AI Part 3

08.05. Module 5 Legal & IP

Career Consultations

MARCH/APRIL + MAY One-on-one Check-Ins

Closing Event Online

22.05. Module 6 Networking & Visibility

Falling Walls Science Summit in Berlin

07.11. Free Ticket for Falling Walls Science Summit

Apply now!

Applications for the 2026 cohort are **open from December 15 to January 25, 2026**. Applicants are required to:

- Complete the application form
- Upload a tabular CV
- Upload an audio recording in which you explain your motivation, how you got your idea, and what problem you want to solve with it.

Apply now



Questions?

Don't hesitate to ask: workshops@falling-walls.com

An initiative of:



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