

Thinking Research Globally Research Explorer Ruhr 2026 kicks off

From 21 June to 4 July, 2026, the summer program *Research Explorer Ruhr* once again brings international early career researchers from various disciplines to the Ruhr Area. Organized by the UA Ruhr Research Academy, the two-week format offers prospective and early postdocs the opportunity to get to know the research landscape of the University Alliance Ruhr (UA Ruhr) - as well as the Ruhr region as an attractive place to live and work.

This summer, the UA Ruhr Research Academy welcomes 37 bright minds from 18 countries to the Ruhr Area. During the *Research Explorer Ruhr*, international early career researchers work closely for two weeks with host professors and their research groups at TU Dortmund University, Ruhr University Bochum (RUB), and the University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE). This creates the best possible conditions for long-term collaborations. In addition, the (prospective) postdocs spend two weeks immersing themselves in the German academic system, exploring funding opportunities and career paths. Ideally, the program leads to a longer research stay at the University Alliance Ruhr, facilitated by a successful third-party funding application.

"The high level of interest in the *Research Explorer Ruhr* shows how attractive the University Alliance Ruhr is for international early career researchers. With over 100 applications and 13 participants from all over the world, we are welcoming more than twice as many guests to TU Dortmund University this year as we did last year," says Dr. Verena Peters, Contact Person for Postdocs and Junior Faculty at the Graduate Center TU Dortmund. "This development underscores the growing international visibility of the program and the appeal of the Ruhr region as a place to conduct research and live."

"We at RUB are looking forward to welcoming 15 international guests from all research disciplines this year, who were selected from a total of 161 applications. Our return rate of around 25 percent over the past ten years demonstrates the program's lasting impact and how well-established it has become at the UA Ruhr level," says Dr. Jörn Benzinger, Global Talent Acquisition, RUB Research School. "The fact that we can welcome researchers from Latin America, North America, Central Asia, and West Africa in particular this year also reflects the desired visibility we are striving to achieve through our marketing efforts in these regions."

"Interest in the *Research Explorer Ruhr* is continuously growing - both among international guests and among professors at the UA Ruhr," says Simon Kresmann, Head of Graduate Center Plus at the University of Duisburg-Essen. "At the UDE alone, more than 20 professors applied to be hosts in order to collaborate with international talents. With nine selected guests, the program once again offers excellent opportunities this year to initiate new scientific collaborations and to sustainably advance the internationalization goals of the UA Ruhr in the area of early career researchers. The *Research Explorer Ruhr* is therefore an important instrument for global scientific networking and cooperation."

TU Dortmund University

- Ufuk Altun; Host: Prof. Onur Günlü
- Bhim Kumar; Host: Prof. Moritz Schulze Darup
- Mohammad Al Homsy; Host: Prof. Dr. Daniel Neider
- Filipe Lopes; Host: Prof. Dr. Christoph Käppler
- Natthawin Cho; Host: Jun.-Prof. Dr. Justine Stang-Rabig
- Gregory Ribeiro; Host: Prof. Hannsjörg Freund
- Josivan Leite Alves; Host: Prof. Dr.-Ing. Magdalena Zabek
- Tran Duc Minh Nguyen; Host: Prof. Dr. Sven Mayer
- Raju Dey; Host: Prof. Dr. Markus Pauly
- Daniel Halaban; Host: Peter Moormann
- María Victoria Cano Colazo; Host: Prof. Dr. Mona Motakef
- Krishnapriya Shaju; Host: Prof. Dr. Sigrid Nieberle
- Thiago Andre Rigon; Host: Jun.Prof.Dr.Vahid Farrahi

Ruhr University Bochum

- Andina Alay Lerma; Host: Prof. Dr. Jonathan Bedford
- Mohammad Farhoudi; Host: Prof. Dr. Tarik Taleb
- Qixiu Fu; Host: Prof. Dr. Dirk Scheele
- Shoaib Ahmad Goraya; Host: Prof. Dr. Xenia Kobeleva
- Emmanuel Hanyabui; Host: Prof. Dr. Christopher Kyba
- Denys Kaidalov; Host: Prof. Dr. Nikolaj Plotnikov
- Husniddin Khayrullaev; Host: Prof. Dr. Martin Kronbichler
- Hang Li; Host: Prof. Dr. Joerg Renner
- Gan Lifeng, Yujia Lu; Host: Prof. Dr. Roger A. Sauer
- Macías Ayala Mario Alberto; Host: Prof. Dr. Margit Fauser
- Claudia Marsulli; Host: Prof. Dr. Christoph Sander
- Marco Rienzi; Host: Prof. Dr. Philipp Richter
- Leonardo Silva; Host: Prof. Dr. Marialore Sulpizi
- Anurag Singh; Host: Prof. Dr. Linda Weiss

University of Duisburg-Essen

- Rael Adhiambo; Host: Prof. Dr. B. Ralf Schäfer
- Khanindram Baruah; Host: Prof. Dr. Anzhela Galstyan
- Quang Hieu Duong; Host: Prof. Dr. Shirley Knauer
- Aswetha Iyer; Host: Prof. Dr. Matthias Epple
- Maham Liaqat; Host: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Schlücker
- Xiaoling Ma; Host: Prof. Dr. Manuela Franke
- Silva Muhate; Host: Prof. Dr. Alf Kimms
- Theodore Richardson; Host: Prof. Dr. Rolf Kuiper
- Denis Tushabomwe; Host: Prof. Dr. Miriam Rehm