

October 2025 - June 2026



Public Engagement Training Portfolio

Information for Researchers



Overview



What is the portfolio?

3

About the Berlin School

5

The key points

6

What exactly do I get out of it?

7

How can I be there?

8

Timetable

9

Programme overview

10

How can I share my research with people outside academia?

Which formats help me to find new perspectives for my research?

How can I create more impact through exchange and dialogue?



The Berlin School training portfolio is your personal path to more openness, exchange and impact in your research.

The Training Portfolio for Public Engagement



Whether you are just starting out in Public Engagement or looking to build on your initial experience, our flexible training programme will support you.

It gives an insight into the strategic approaches of exchange and explores various methods and interaction formats. During the training you have the chance to acquire practical skills around dialogue, evaluation and communication in a positive environment. The focus is on developing your own personal engagement practice, opening up new opportunities for you in your research.

What do we mean by Public Engagement (PE)?

PE encompasses the diverse approaches of interaction between research and non-academic stakeholders for mutual benefit. It describes a field in the German research landscape, the practice of exchange between researchers and the public, and stands for the attitude that research and society benefit from mutual exchange.

The Public Engagement Code, Berlin School of Public Engagement and Open Science & Cyber Valley, 1st Edition, 2022 - [Link](#)

The Berlin School of Public Engagement and Open Science



Part of the Public Engagement & Impact Unit at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

We connect research and society to make research more open, accessible and impact-orientated. In this way, we strengthen a diverse, democratic research culture.

With our work, we create incentives and opportunities for collaboration between interest groups, the public and researchers at all career levels. A core aspect is training and professional development for researchers and PE practitioners. This way, we strengthen capacities and competencies for Public Engagement and participation in Germany and worldwide.

Find out more about our work on our [website](#) or [LinkedIn](#)





Key Points of the Portfolio

Who? The portfolio is aimed at researchers from all disciplines and at all stages of their careers in German academic institutions and projects. It is best suited for those with no or limited experience in Public Engagement who wish to build a solid conceptual and practical foundation in this field.

When? It runs from October 2025 to June 2026, with an average of one workshop (~3 hrs) per month.

Where? All training takes place in live online sessions on Zoom, led by the Berlin School's experienced training team.

What? The portfolio is an ongoing training programme. There are 3 thematic modules (Practical Building Blocks, Evaluation and Creative Formats), each with a mandatory foundational workshop (in German and English) and optional in-depth units and masterclasses. More information from page 10.

What do I get out of it?



The portfolio offers you:

- Effective and flexible training in public engagement with relevance for current and future projects
- Connection to (inter)national networks of researchers and practitioners in the fields of participation and engagement
- Access to additional programmes offered by the Berlin School (e.g. academies, Journal Club)
- A range of transferable skills, e.g. on project management, science communication and design, which will be useful for your future career path
- A framework for developing your own engagement initiative and a creative space to exchange ideas with like-minded individuals.

Certificate:

You will receive a certificate if you attend regularly (3 foundation sessions plus at least 1 optional session) and submit a short personal reflection.



How can I take part?



Registration for the portfolio is done via the contact person at your institution / project. You will receive the details together with this information.

By registering, you are making a firm commitment to attend **at least the three foundational workshops**. This commitment is important as places are limited and we want to provide a holistic perspective.

We will confirm your place towards the end of September, at which point you can book specific dates for the sessions.

For information and questions: Online drop-in session on 15 September 11:00 - 12:00 ([Zoom link](#)) or write to us at berlinschooltraining@mfn.berlin

Timetable and next steps



15 Sep 2025: 11:00 - 12:00 Online info session for questions about the portfolio ([Zoom Link](#))

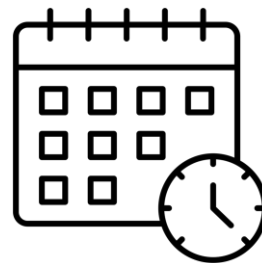
approx. 19 Sep 2025: End of the registration period

From 30 Sep 2025: Booking platform for individual training dates opens

From 16 Oct 2025: First training workshops

End of June 2026: End of the portfolio

31 July 2026: Deadline for submission of the certificate reflection



Programme overview

The optional offers are a suggestion and may change depending on requirements.

MODULE 01

The building blocks of public engagement

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025

Foundational workshop

Practical Engagement

Optional offers

Improvisational techniques in transdisciplinary research

Additional offers from the Berlin School and its partner projects

MODULE 02

Evaluation practice

JANUARY - MARCH 2026

Foundational workshop

Getting started with evaluation

Optional offers

Impact planning and evaluation

Additional offers from the Berlin School and its partner projects

MODULE 03

Creative skills and formats

APRIL - JUNE 2026

Foundational workshop

Designing Interactions

Optional offers

Storytelling for researchers

Project Builder: Engagement plan

The building blocks of Public Engagement

Explore the diverse landscape of Public Engagement and get to know the building blocks for high-quality engagement activities

Foundational workshop: Engagement in practice (3h)

- Principles and approaches of engagement
- Motivations and possibilities in different research contexts
- Tools for designing engagement projects

Dates:
16 October 2025
21 October 2025

Optional sessions:

- ★ Improvisation Techniques in Transdisciplinary Research
- ★ Additional offers from the Berlin School and its partner projects

Dates:
October - December
2025



Evaluation practice

Define what constitutes success in your engagement activities and develop your understanding of evaluation processes to demonstrate the value of your work and optimise future projects

Foundational workshop: Introduction to evaluation (3h)

- the why, when and how of a successful evaluation
- the steps of the evaluation process
- accessible and relevant methods

Dates:

20 January 2026

22 January 2026

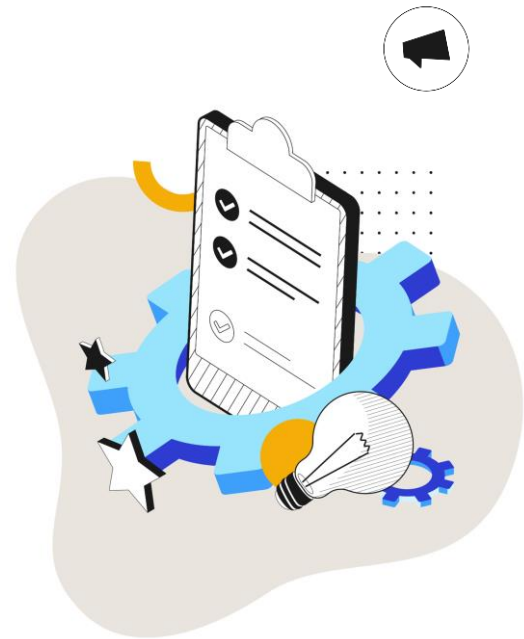
Optional sessions:

- ★ Impact evaluation
- ★ Additional offers from the Berlin School and its partner projects

Dates:

January - March

2026





Creative engagement - skills and formats

Discover exciting and useful ways to engage with different target groups and deepen your skills as an engager

Foundational workshop: Interaction Design (3h)

- Understanding the possibilities of interaction
- Design processes with people at the centre
- Inspiration for formats: from objects to games

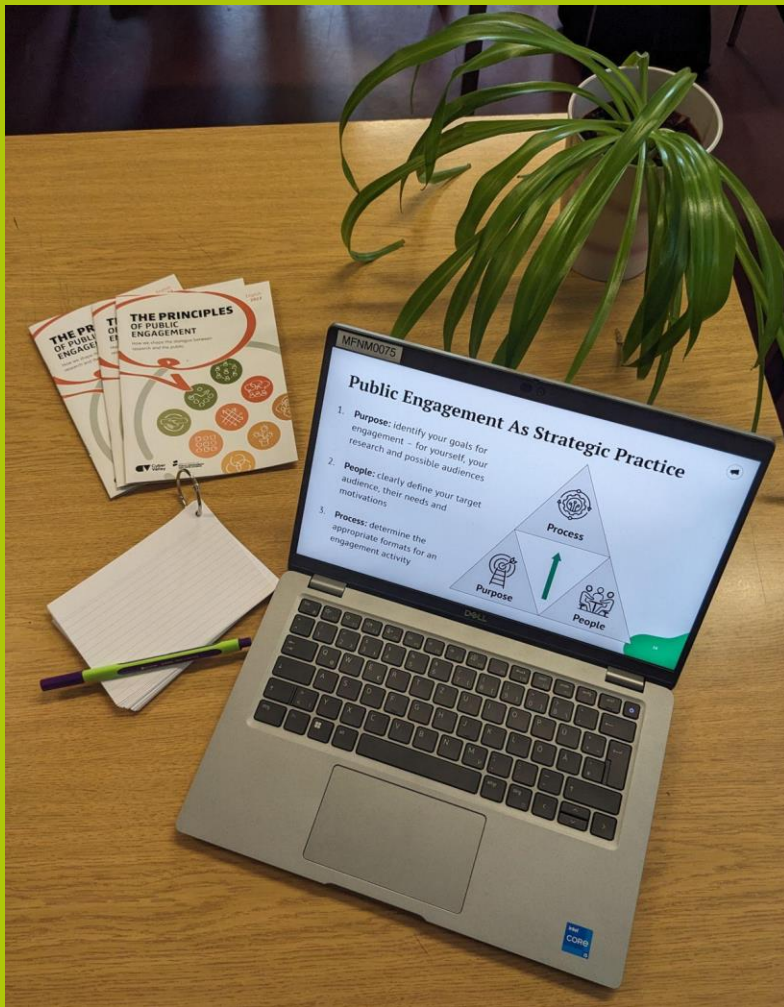
Dates:
14 April 2026
16 April 2026

Optional sessions:

- ★ Storytelling for researchers
- ★ Practical formats: Case studies and test rooms

Dates:
April -June 2026





“A notable moment of change in my understanding of public engagement came when I realized it's not just about helping the public “understand” science better – it's also a meaningful gain for researchers. Engaging with non-academic audiences allows research to have a broader impact, ensuring its relevance beyond the academic sphere. Was a great format!”

(Portfolio participant 2024/25, Charité Berlin)

“Overall, I am taking away new inspiration, a sharper focus on diversity and lots of ideas for new teaching methods for my everyday work. With a handful of concrete formats, I can rethink funding applications and make the normal working day more exciting with workshops and other activities. Thank you very much!”

(Portfolio participant 2024/25, HTW Berlin)



Contact Us



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Berlin School of Public Engagement
and Open Science



publicengagement.berlin