A Family Focus

Working parents face the huge daily challenge of reconciling professional commitments and family care. Young academics and research staff in particular need good organizational skills and effective time management, in order to strike a healthy balance between the conflicting demands of a career and family life.

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin considers fair treatment for families to be a vital aspect of university life. Its endeavour to further develop family-friendly measures throughout the entire university is therefore under constant review. The Family Support Centre advocates and supervises such development, especially on behalf of parents who work at the university.

How To Reach Us:

Family Support Centre
Unter den Linden 6 • Room 2109a
Phone: + 49 (0)30 2093 2191
Fax: + 49 (0)30 2093 2418
familienservice@uv.hu-berlin.de
www.hu-berlin.de/familienbuero

Please visit our website for the current office hours in Mitte and Adlershof.

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin was designated a family-friendly university in December 2009. It strives continuously to extend its family-friendly infrastructure, in order to improve the situation of staff and students with children.
**Information, Support and Advocacy**

The Family Support Centre helps you to find individual ways to strike a healthy balance between your career and the demands of parenthood.

It informs you of the options available for creating a family-friendly workplace, and helps you put them to practical use. The Family Support Centre provides advice on legal as well as financial issues (e.g. maternity leave, child benefit, returning to work, etc.). Moreover, it offers practical support in organising childcare. For short-term childcare (i.e. for a period of 3–6 months), it is possible to enrol your child at the kindergarten on the Adlershof Campus.

The Family Support Centre is also currently working to extend childcare facilities at the university, as well as to establish more flexible work schedules for staff.

You can reach us in person during office hours, or contact us by telephone or email.

**Improving Infrastructure**

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin already has a large number of designated family rooms (www.gremien.hu-berlin.de/familienbuero), which you and your children can use. Space is available to change nappies, breastfeed your child, spend some time with your children, or simply enjoy some peace and quiet. The Family Support Centre is working to establish more such spaces in all the University’s institutes and faculties. It also strongly advocates making all areas of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin equally accessible to all its users.

If you are a working parent and wish to bring your child(ren) to a conference or any other event at the university, toy-packs are available for loan, free of charge, from the Family Support Centre or libraries. If necessary, the Family Support Centre can arrange childcare during an event. As of 2012, a pilot project will provide, at short notice, limited periods of childcare to staff members who have fallen ill. The University’s graduate schools, faculties and institutes can book this service via the Family Support Centre.

The Family Support Centre also makes an annual award to the “Most Family-friendly Project at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin”. Details are available on our website.

**Raising Awareness**

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin has become increasingly aware of ‘Career and Family’ issues, and it appreciates the value inherent to a healthy balance of career and family life. The Family Support Centre uses various media to heighten awareness of the issues involved: you can read about the latest family-friendly developments and options at our university in the magazine *humboldt chancengleich* and the newspaper *Humboldt-Zeitung*, as well as on our website and on Facebook. Also, ‘How To Reconcile Career and Family’ is a regular feature of the university’s career advancement and training programmes.

The Summer Party for the children of all the university’s staff and students is an annual highlight on the Family Support Centre’s agenda.