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HAUS Blatt Special Edition 2025

Welcome to the Special Edition of our HAUS Blatt!

With this Special Edition, we aim to highlight our current offerings and activities, keeping you informed and engaged with the HAUS (Alumni in the US) and HACA (Alumni in Canada) community and Universität Heidelberg. We look forward to connecting with you!

You can reach us here: info@heidelberguniversity.org

Best wishes,

Katja and Melanie

*Dr. Katja Simons, Executive Director & Melanie Grossmann, Program Officer
Heidelberg University Association*

HAUS Scholarships for Study and Summer School in Heidelberg

HAUS Summer School Scholarship

HAUS Summer School Scholarship recipients receive funding to participate in the month-long International Summer School of German Language and Culture at Universität Heidelberg. There are a variety of course levels from which to choose and the program will take place from July 31 - August 27, 2025.

The application deadline for the 2025 Summer School Scholarship is **March 31, 2025**.

Learn more and apply [here](#).

HAUS Study Scholarship

HAUS Study Scholarship recipients receive funding for a semester of study at the bachelor's or master's level.

The application deadline for the Study Scholarship for the academic year 2025-26 is **June 8, 2025**.

Learn more and apply [here](#).

The HAUS Scholarships are supported entirely by donations from the HAUS alumni community.

Stay Connected - Upcoming Events



Invitations to events will be sent out separately

2025 HAUS National Meeting in Chicago | Oct. 3-5

The National Meeting brings together former students, exchange students, graduates, researchers, professors, and other friends of Universität Heidelberg for an informative and fun-filled weekend. Save the date! More details will be shared soon.

Meet & Greet with Rektorin Prof. Dr. Frauke Melchior in NYC | April 14

Register for the Meet & Greet [here](#)

New HAUS Chapter Meetup in Chapel Hill, NC | March 29

Register for Chapel Hill [here](#)

HAUS Chapter and other events (e.g. university fairs) are regularly updated here: [Event Listings](#)

Update your contact information with us

Ensure you receive the latest HAUS news and opportunities.

If your contact information or occupation has changed, please let us know and update your information with this link:

[UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

HAUS Chapters

Our HAUS Chapters help alumni stay engaged with the Heidelberg community. We are excited to announce that we have several new chairs and chapters.

A big THANK YOU to our HAUS Chapters Chairs for their continued commitment! Here are our current HAUS Chapters: Boston (Dr. Stella Paffenholz), North Carolina (Dr. med. Francisco Javier Martinez-Torres), Southern California (chair position currently open), Chicago (John Dillon, Edward Potash, Christoph Stokowski), Heidelberg (Heike Heinzelmann Kranz, Dr. Siegfried Ruppert), New York (Nina Brandt), San Francisco & Northern California (Dr. Paula Weidemueller, Diane Guido, PhD), Ohio (Mark Peeples, PhD), Philadelphia (Dr. Anita Heeren), Washington, DC (Sarah Rice).

If you would like to open a chapter in your area, please let us know!

[Find out more](#)



New Chapter Chair in Boston

Dr. Stella Paffenholz

Stella is a Principal at Nextech Invest in Boston, investing in public and private biotechs with a focus on oncology. She serves as a Board Observer for multiple portfolio companies, including Be Biopharma, Delphia Therapeutics, and Tubulis.



New Chapter Chair in North Carolina

Dr. med. Francisco Javier Martinez-Torres

Francisco Javier is a Senior Medical Director in the biopharmaceutical company Dompé and an executive MBA student at UNC Kenan-Flagler business school, class of 2026. He earned his medical degree at the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo

Stella holds a B.S. in Molecular Biomedicine from the University of Bonn, a M.S. in Molecular Biosciences from Heidelberg University and the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg as a Helmholtz Fellow, and a Ph.D. from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York with her research focused on cancer genetics.

Outside of Nextech, Stella can be found running, cycling, or swimming to train for her next marathon or triathlon.



New Chapter Co-Chair in SF/Northern California

Dr. Diane Guido

Diane currently serves as Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs and Success and Chief Research Officer at Sonoma State University. She earned her undergraduate degree in foreign languages from Pepperdine University, a certificate in German from Universität Heidelberg, and graduate degrees from Claremont Graduate University (an MBA and a Ph.D. in European History).

She was also a Fulbright Scholar to Germany. Diane was previously chair

León in Monterrey, Mexico, having completed his *Praktisches Jahr* as an exchange student at Ruperto Carola.

From 2001-2007, Francisco Javier was a physician / scientist at the Department of Neurology, *Universitätsklinikum* Heidelberg and in 2007 he obtained his doctoris medicinae (Dr. med.) in Neurology.

Francisco Javier enjoys spending time with his family, loves reading, cooking, walking with the family dogs, and training his favorite sport, boxing.



New Chapter Co-Chair in SF/Northern California

Dr. Paula Weidemüller

Paula is a postdoctoral researcher in Nicola Müller's group at UCSF's EPPIcenter, studying respiratory pathogen transmission using phylodynamic modeling with diverse data inputs. She also explores dengue virus transmission between endemic and non-endemic regions.

Paula completed her Masters in Systems Biology at Universität Heidelberg. During her PhD in Evangelia Petsalaki's group at the EMBL-EBI in Cambridge, UK, she

of the Southern California regional HAUS chapter (2014-2024) and now serves on the HAUS National Leadership Committee.

Her hobbies include biking, baking, traveling, puzzling, and knitting.

studied the context-dependency of cancer vulnerabilities by analyzing large-scale CRISPR-KO screens.

When Paula is not on her computer, she loves exploring SF, the Bay Area, and California, enjoying the diversity in food, culture, and nature.

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Updates from HAI

Stay connected with Heidelberg University's global alumni network through HAI! From exclusive lectures and reunions to mentorship initiatives and career support as well as newsletters (HAIlife, HAInews, RANewsletter etc.), there's something for everyone. [Learn more by visiting HAI online.](#)

Registration open for Online German Courses in the Summer Term 2025

Acquire, refresh or improve your German language skills for everyday use: Alumni registered with HAI can sign up for online language courses at Universität Heidelberg (course fee 195 Euro). On offer are general language courses for all levels ranging from A1 (absolute beginners) up to C2 (advanced learners). You complete one course per semester. In the following semester you normally move on to the next course level.

Online placement test: Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 6pm CET | [Access to placement test](#)

The placement test is mandatory only if you did not attend a course with us last semester.

[More information about the language courses](#)

Call for Application for Global Digital Health Research Alumni Project Week

International Research Alumni of Universität Heidelberg are invited to apply for a DAAD funded project week in November 2025 in Germany. This unique project brings together Research Alumni and local experts from six German institutions (DKFZ, KIT, and the Universities of Cologne, Heidelberg, Münster, and Siegen) to tackle global challenges in digital health, AI, biomedical informatics, health policy, and more.

For successful applicants travel and lodging will be supported. Apply by March 31, 2025 [here](#)

Thank You for Your Support!

Your generous donations help us continue providing scholarships and strengthen our community, support research and innovation, and expand access to Universität Heidelberg. We appreciate your contribution!

Heidelberg University Association, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation and has been recognized by the IRS as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donation is fully tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

[Learn more](#)

Follow Us on Social Media!

Heidelberg University Association and HAUS have a strong presence on social media, keeping alumni, partners, and friends updated and connected. Join the 900+ members on Facebook and Instagram by following @huaheidelberg on Instagram or on Facebook (@Heidelberg Uni Association) (accounts required to interact).

We also have three alumni social media groups: You can join the 470+ HAUS members on LinkedIn and the 200+ members on Facebook or the 50+ HACA members in Canada on Facebook and ask to join the groups. Stay connected—our social media channels are a great way to keep the conversation going!

Join our Groups

[Facebook HAUS Group](#)

[Facebook HACA Group](#)

[LinkedIn HAUS Group](#)

Heidelberg University Association

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