The Einstein Foundation Berlin was founded in 2009 by the State of Berlin. The Foundation aims to promote science and research of top international calibre in Berlin and to establish the city as a centre of scientific excellence. An independent scientific commission of the highest standard selects projects for funding.

Aims

- To promote excellent cross-institutional research projects in Berlin.
- To raise the visibility of Berlin as a centre of research excellence.
- To enable new forms of cooperation between universities and non-university research institutions.
- To evaluate new fields of research, to give strategic advice on identifying focuses of future research.
- To encourage top international scientists to collaborate with Berlin institutions.
Neuroscience is just beginning to provide us with an understanding of how the brain works and how it controls the way we think, learn, and remember.

Neuroscience research requires insights from many different disciplines to make significant contributions to our understanding. The neuroscience landscape in Berlin is exceptionally rich, with research spanning from synapse to behavior, molecule to disease, and brain to mind.

The Einstein Center for Neurosciences Berlin (ECN) was initiated to establish an umbrella structure that specifically fosters interdisciplinary, collaborative research by facilitating synergies between existing research groups and promoting interaction on all levels.

The ECN currently has about 100 individual members (principal investigators), many of whom are directors of basic or clinical research programs. All share a common aim: to increase our knowledge of neuroscience and develop new research approaches.

The ECN is a cooperative effort of:

- Berlin School of Mind and Brain
  www.mind-and-brain.de

- Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience Berlin
  www.bccn-berlin.de

- Center for Stroke Research Berlin
  www.schlaganfallcentrum.de

- Cluster of Excellence NeuroCure
  www.neurecure.de

**Mission**

The central goals of the ECN are to further develop Berlin as an internationally visible neuroscience location and to harmonize and combine the many excellent existing graduate programs in the capital. To this end, the ECN will establish an overarching PhD education and training program. Outstanding international doctoral candidates in the neurosciences will be recruited and supported with a student fellowship.

Our long-term vision is a Center with an international faculty and high visibility, a positive and cooperative environment, integrative and interactive research and training which provides young scientists with a first-rate disciplinary and interdisciplinary education.

**The Einstein Training Program**

Neuroscience has become relevant for a number of different academic fields and professions. Our PhD program will train students to become experts in both neuroscience research and related disciplines.

Students will take part in an interdisciplinary ECN curriculum, including courses offered by our partner institutions. Learning about the research questions and methodologies of different scientific fields will help students to define and pursue their own research focus. During their training, students can choose different tracks to generate an individualized curriculum.

The first call for fellowships will be announced in fall 2016 – fellowships will start fall 2017.

**Career options for bachelor students:** Outstanding candidates with a bachelor’s degree are welcome to apply.

The Training Program includes:

- Initial boot camp for all students (crash courses in all relevant disciplines)
- Initial lab rotation period of 6 months
- Individual assessment to identify core curriculum
- Continuing education program
- Supervision via PhD committees
- Encouragement and support for independence of excellent young scientists
- Student fellowships

**Initial analysis of strengths and weaknesses**

Assessment at the beginning of the rotations

- **Core Curriculum**
  - Foundations of neuroscience
  - Basic knowledge in all relevant disciplines
  - Core skills
  - Statistics
  - Basic programming
  - Good scientific practice
  - Curriculum according to assessment
  - Generalized curriculum

- **Continuing Education**
  - Soft skills & communication
  - Scientific writing
  - Project management
  - Visualization of quantitative data
  - Optional curriculum
  - Advanced individual skills
  - Specialized methods
  - Advanced programming
  - Clinical studies
  - Optional curriculum depending on field of activity

The curriculum is currently being finalized.
For information regarding your application please contact: info@ecn-berlin.de