

GeneNovate 2026 I Berlin



Innovators & Entrepreneurs in Gene & Cell-based Therapies,
Biotech & Medicine

You are an ambitious PhD student, Postdoc or researcher looking to found a start-up to advance progress in life science research?

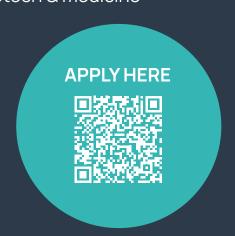
Then you're the perfect candidate for the GeneNovate program!

Where can you participate?

- Berlin
- Heidelberg
- Munich
- Region EAST (Dresden, Leipzig)
- Region NORTH (Braunschweig, Göttingen, Hannover, ...)
- Region NRW 1 (Aachen, Bonn, Cologne, Düsseldorf, ...)
- Region NRW 2 (Bochum, Dortmund, Duisburg, Essen, ...)
- Region RHINE-MAIN (Mainz, ...)
- Region Southwest (Freiburg, Tübingen)

Who should apply?

PhD-students, PostDocs and researchers in the life sciences, biotech & medicine











What is GeneNovate?

GeneNovate is the first nationwide entrepreneurship program in Germany, designed to empower innovators and entrepreneurs in the field of Gene and Cell Therapies, Biotech and Medicine.

The program targets early-career scientists and physicians such as advanced students, PhD candidates and Postdocs, but it is also open to experienced researchers and medical professionals. A key strength of the program lies in its collaborative approach, connecting participants across multiple locations.

Program schedule

Kick-off 9.12.25 | onsite Networking Building Teams Meeting Mentors



in Freiburg and online

Hybrid session: onsite in

Cologne and online

Workshop 6		
1.6.26 online	10.6.26 l onsite	
Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites	Financing & funding Investor discussions & negotiations	

Exit options &

strategic value

Workshop 1 7.1.26 I online 21.1.26 I onsite Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites Hybrid session: onsite in Freiburg and online Creating & presenting pitch decks



Workshop 4

Preselection	Final Event
June 2026 I Onsite	25.6.26 Munich
All teams pitching in front of a jury	Selected teams pitching Networking

Workshop 2		
2.2.26 I online	18.2.26 I onsite	
Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites Hybrid session: onsite in Cologne and online	Value propositions & Business Model P-Protection & Management (operational & strategic)	

Workshop 5		
4.5.26 I online	13.5.26 I onsite	
Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites Hybrid session: onsite in Freiburg and online	Legal foundations for start ups Team management Project management Establish & manage ge partnerships	