

# GeneNovate 2026 | Berlin



Empowering  
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

**APPLY HERE**



## 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

<b>Kick-off</b>		<b>Workshop 1</b>		<b>Workshop 2</b>	
<b>9.12.25   onsite</b>		<b>7.1.26   online</b>	<b>21.1.26   onsite</b>	<b>2.2.26   online</b>	<b>18.2.26   onsite</b>
Networking  Building Teams  Meeting Mentors 		Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites  Hybrid session: onsite in Freiburg and online	 Introduction to Entrepreneurship   Changing the Healthcare Industry   Creating & presenting pitch decks	Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites  Hybrid session: onsite in Cologne and online	 Value propositions & Business Model   IP-Protection & Management (operational & strategic)
<b>Workshop 3</b>		<b>Workshop 4</b>		<b>Workshop 5</b>	
<b>2.3.26   online</b>	<b>25.3.26   onsite</b>	<b>1.4.26   online</b>	<b>29.4.26   onsite</b>	<b>4.5.26   online</b>	<b>13.5.26   onsite</b>
Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites  Hybrid session: onsite in Freiburg and online	 Analyze your market   Create your business model   Build your business case	Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites  Hybrid session: onsite in Cologne and online	 Regulation   Develop your product/solution   Go-to-Market: Understand & win customers	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 partnerships
<b>Workshop 6</b>		<b>Preselection</b>	<b>Final Event</b>		
<b>1.6.26   online</b>	<b>10.6.26   onsite</b>	<b>June 2026   Onsite</b>	<b>25.6.26   Munich</b>		
Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites  Hybrid session: onsite in Cologne and online	 Financing & funding   Investor discussions & negotiations   Exit options & strategic value	All teams pitching in front of a jury  	Selected teams pitching    Networking  		