

GeneNovate 2026 | Heidelberg



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



Partner:

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		Workshop 1		Workshop 2	
19.11.25 onsite		7.1.26 online	28.1.26 onsite	2.2.26 online	24.2.26 onsite
<div>Networking</div> <div>Building Teams</div> <div>Meeting Mentors</div> <div></div>		<div>Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites</div> <div>Hybrid session: onsite in Freiburg and online</div>	<div> Introduction to Entrepreneurship</div> <div> Changing the Healthcare Industry</div> <div> Creating & presenting pitch decks</div>	<div>Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites</div> <div>Hybrid session: onsite in Cologne and online</div>	<div> Value propositions & Business Model</div> <div> IP-Protection & Management (operational & strategic)</div>
Workshop 3		Workshop 4		Workshop 5	
2.3.26 online		1.4.26 online	22.4.26 onsite	4.5.26 online	12.5.26 onsite
<div>Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites</div> <div>Hybrid session: onsite in Freiburg and online</div>	<div> Analyze your market</div> <div> Create your business model</div> <div> Build your business case</div>	<div>Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites</div> <div>Hybrid session: onsite in Cologne and online</div>	<div> Regulation</div> <div> Develop your product/solution</div> <div> Go-to-Market: Understand & win customers</div>	<div>Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites</div> <div>Hybrid session: onsite in Freiburg and online</div>	<div> Legal foundations for start ups</div> <div> Team management</div> <div> Project management</div> <div> Establish & manage partnerships</div>
Workshop 6		Preselection	Final Event		
1.6.26 online		June 2026 Onsite	25.6.26 Munich		
<div>Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites</div> <div>Hybrid session: onsite in Cologne and online</div>	<div> Financing & funding</div> <div> Investor discussions & negotiations</div> <div> Exit options & strategic value</div>	<div>All teams pitching in front of a jury</div> <div></div>	<div>Selected teams pitching</div> <div>Networking</div> <div> </div>		