

GeneNovate 2026 | Heidelberg



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



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 11.12.25 | online | | 10:00 - 13:00 Networking **Building Teams** Meeting Mentors

Workshop 3



2.3.26 I online	16.3.26 I onsite
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



strategic value

Hybrid session: onsite in

Cologne and online

Workshop 1		
7.1.26 l online	28.1.26 onsite	
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	
Workshop /		

1.4.26 I online	22.4.26 onsite
Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites	Regulation Develop your product/solution
Hybrid session: onsite in Cologne and online	Go-to-Market: Understand & win customers

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

Workshop 5		
4.5.26 I online	12.5.26 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 partnerships	