

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	
11.12.25 online 10:00 - 13:00		7.1.26 online		2.2.26 online	
Networking		Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites		Theoretical input for all GeneNovate trainees across all sites	
Building Teams		Hybrid session: onsite in Freiburg and online		Hybrid session: onsite in Cologne and online	
Meeting Mentors		28.1.26 onsite		24.2.26 onsite	
		 Introduction to Entrepreneurship		 Value propositions & Business Model	
		 Changing the Healthcare Industry		 IP-Protection & Management (operational & strategic)	
		 Creating & presenting pitch decks			