

February marks the beginning of the semester break. After the exams and assessments of the past few days, this is hopefully a good time for our students to take a break from the everyday university schedule. At the end of this winter semester, IPU recognized its top students. The summer semester, however, is not too far away. Those who would also like to study at IPU can still apply for the start of studies in April 2026. Information on events and professional development opportunities can be found below.

- [To Events](#)
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Outstanding Students

IPU Berlin is home to young people who distinguish themselves through outstanding academic achievements and exceptional dedication. Recently, several of them were recognized. Anna Fitzhugh received the DAAD Prize, while Laura Schwarzer (Bachelor's), Ivan de Palma, and Jakob Eisemann (both Master's) were recognized for writing the best theses of 2025. Read more about it [on our website](#).

Outstanding IPU Students

[Learn more.](#)



Apply by end of March to study at IPU starting summer semester 2026

The following programs begin in the summer semester at IPU: a bachelor's degree in psychology, a new part-time master's degree in clinical psychology and psychotherapy, and a part-time master's degree in interdisciplinary psychosis therapy. Information on the application process can be found [on our website](#).

Discover Our Content

What challenges do social workers face when working with people with psychosis? And how enriching are multi-professional perspectives for patient care? These are just two of the questions we address in video posts on our [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) channels. Together with students, professors and therapists, we explore a wide range of topics. Follow us on our social media channels.

Doctoral Scholarship Offered

The Foundation for the Promotion of University Psychoanalysis is again offering a doctoral scholarship at IPU Berlin this year. Applications can be submitted until 15 March 2026. You can find more information [on our website](#).

Events

13 till 15 March 2026

Improvisation und Partizipation – unerhörte Elemente therapeutischer Gespräche

Annual conference by the IPU-affiliated institute JUNKTIM e. V.

Further information [on our website](#).

15 April 2026 | 6 pm

Can't buy me love? Markt und Organisation in der digitalen Transformation des Kennenlernens

Inaugural lecture by Prof. Thorsten Peetz

Register [on our website](#).

24 April 2026 | 6 pm

Psychoanalyse und soziale Ungleichheiten – Gesellschaftliche Machtverhältnisse auf der Couch

Kick-off for the event series by Queer IPU, jointly organized with the Free University of Berlin, among others.

More information [on our website](#).

SAVE THE DATE

28 April 2026

Zeug*innenschaft

Kick-off for an event series, organized by the IPU in cooperation with AMCHA e. V.

More information on our website soon.

SAVE THE DATE

29 April 2026

Verbundenheit in Differenz und Konflikt: Das postmoderne Paar

Lecture by Klaus Schmidt, organized by the Kilian Köhler Center (KKC) at the IPU Berlin.

More information on our website soon.

Are you planning or organizing an IPU Berlin event?

Use our new form in the InfoCenter to register your event. All links and information can be found [here](#).

8 May 2026 | from 9:30 am

Career Day: People and Organisations in Transition – Shaping the Future of Work Together

For all IPU students.

More information [on IPU Connect](#).

9 May 2026 | 10 am

IPU Open Day

Get to know the IPU: lectures, campus tours and service offers

Further information [on our website](#).

SAVE THE DATE

12 May 2026 | 4 pm

Preisverleihung des Lotte Köhler-Preises für psychoanalytische Entwicklungs-, Kultur- und Sozialpsychologie

More information on our website soon.

SAVE THE DATE

6 June 2026 | 5 pm

Long Night of Sciences 2026

Program and information on our website soon.

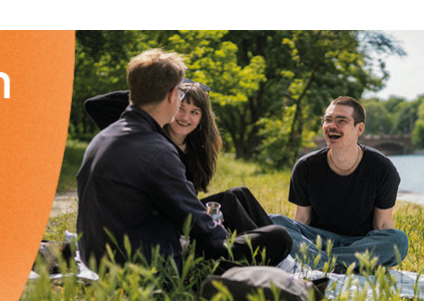
29 August till 5 September 2026 | 5 pm

IPU Alumni Masterclass

More information [on IPU Connect](#).

Study Psychology at the IPU Berlin

Apply by end of March for the Summer Semester 2026.



Catastrophilia

The [February column](#) by IPU President Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz

When I was young, snow in winter was something normal, expected, and enjoyable. Today, weather conditions with prolonged snowfall have not only become rare; they also give rise to predictions of disaster. Yet so far this year, we have had a fairly normal winter, and—with a few exceptions—the drama has been limited. "Catastrophism" exists not only in astronomy, geology, and paleontology, but also in psychology. Here, "catastrophizing" is considered a cognitive distortion or dysfunctional strategy that goes hand in hand with the conviction that a

disastrous event is highly likely to occur and that the damage will be immeasurable. Feelings of helplessness and powerlessness are accompanied by depression or anxiety disorders. It is not without reason that cabaret artist Lisa Eckhart recently warned of a "life threatening mildness" in the coming spring.

Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz has been President of the International Psychoanalytic University Berlin since July 2021. Once a month, he provides commentary here on contemporary, timeless, psychoanalytic and political issues.



In a social or political context, catastrophilia is also symptomatic of the tendency to replace responsibility with security, which has already been mentioned several times here. The lawn in front of the Alte Pinakothek in Munich also narrowly escaped disaster. According to media reports, someone called for a large snowball fight on social media—to which hundreds responded. However, "Germany's biggest snowball fight" had not been properly registered, let alone approved. As such, there were no provisions made for risk assessment, barriers, site plans with escape routes, or security staff. The Munich municipality therefore urged the initiator to withdraw his call. He had likely neglected to submit the application out of concern that the snow would have melted long before the permit was granted, and the season would probably no longer have been suitable. At least he amended his call with an appeal to not "throw chunks of ice, put rocks in snowballs, or aim at people's heads." Precautions of this kind paint a telling picture of the state of our society, as does the relieved report after the fact that everything had "gone peacefully." The staff of the Pinakothek also contributed to the report, with their spokesperson simply stating that they had found the whole thing amusing and had ensured that no one was hit by snowballs when entering or exiting the gallery.

One can only hope that there will be no repercussions—protests against bureaucratic action, violations of the right of assembly, and certainly a few other things that run counter to humor, joie de vivre, and initiative.

A Warm Welcome to the IPU Berlin

Dajana Eder joined Prof. Dr. Dorothea von Haebler as a new research assistant this month. **Hannes Halter** also began working as a research assistant for Prof. Dr. Christian Sell in February.

The administration is pleased to welcome two new members: **Jenny Högl** joined the Office for Studies and Teaching on the 1st of this month. **Rodrigo Lois**, after previously working freelance, has now been hired as a permanent member of the IT team and is responsible for media technology.

Current job openings, including for student assistants, can be found regularly on our website.

Missing something?

We look forward to receiving your feedback on our newsletter. We welcome topic suggestions, criticism, and ideas **by email**. Empfehlen Sie unseren Newsletter gern weiter. Please feel free to recommend our newsletter to others. You can **subscribe here**.

