

Prof. Dr. Philipp Adelhelm

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Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie (HZB)



Research fields: Physical Chemistry of Materials, Electrochemistry, Batteries, Energy storage, Sustainable Materials

▼ Career and degrees

03/2020–

Head of the joint research group “Operando battery analysis” • Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin (HZB)

10/2019–

Professor (W3) • Physical Chemistry of Materials • Institute of Chemistry • Humboldt University Berlin

04/2015–9/2019

Professor (W3) • Institute for Technical & Environmental Chemistry • Friedrich-Schiller University Jena

11/2009–3/2015

Young investigator group leader • Institute of Physical Chemistry • Justus-Liebig-University Giessen

Academic advisor: Prof. Jürgen Janek

10/2007–09/2009

Postdoctoral Researcher • Debye Institute for Nanomaterials Science • Inorganic Chemistry and Catalysis • Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Academic advisor: Prof. Petra de Jongh

02/2005–07/2007

Doctoral student • Max-Planck-Institute for Colloids and Interfaces, Potsdam

Academic advisors: Prof. Markus Antonietti, Prof. Bernd Smarsly

Thesis: Novel carbon materials with hierarchical porosity: templating strategies and advanced characterization (summa cum laude)

10/1998–08/2005

University studies in Materials Science (Dipl. Ing.) • University of Stuttgart / Max-Planck Institute for Metals Research

Thesis: Ink jet printing of mesoporous particles (Lennart Bergström / Fritz Aldinger)

Semesters abroad: University of Auckland, New Zealand

Institute for Surface Chemistry (YKI), Stockholm, Sweden (Erasmus program)

April 1, 2026 – Prof. Philipp Adelhelm

▼ Academic distinctions and relevant activities

2025-

- Initiator and Co-Speaker of the Berlin Battery Lab, a joint undertaking of Humboldt-University Berlin, Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin (HZB) and Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (BAM)

2023-

- Member of the Center for the Science of Materials Berlin (CSMB), Humboldt-University Berlin

2024-

- Deputy director of the Institute of Chemistry, Humboldt-University Berlin (institute director from 3/2026)

2020-2024

- Elected member of the German Research Foundation (DFG) Review Board on the section "Physical Chemistry of Solids and Surfaces, Material Characterisation"

2020-2025

- ERC Consolidator Grant of the European Research Council

2022-

- Member of the advisory board "Beirat Batterieforschung Deutschland" of the Federal Ministry for Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)

2024-

- Member of the advisory board for the "Bavarian Center for Battery Technology (BayBatt)"

2015-

- Member of the board of the GDCh Fachgruppe "Chemie und Energie" (2015-2022) and "Elektrochemie" (2023-)

2025-:

- Member of the mentoring program of „Deutsche Universitätsstiftung“ (DHV)

2018-:

- Founder of the conference series "Sodium Battery Symposium (SBS)", today Europe's largest conference on Na-ion battery technology. The conference takes place alternately every year in Berlin (organized by HU Berlin / HZB) and in Dresden (organized by Fraunhofer IKTS). The last event in Berlin had 330 participants and 90 posters. The next conference in Berlin will take place in 2026.

Prizes:

2026

- Wilhelm-Ostwald Fellow Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (BAM)

2025

- Berliner Wissenschaftspreis

2024

- Mid-Career Research Award from the International Society for Solid State Ionics

2023 and 2025

- Listed in "Die 100 wichtigsten Köpfe der Berliner Wissenschaft", Tagesspiegel

2015

- Call from RWTH Aachen on a W2 professorship (denied)

2014

- Finalist Science Award Electrochemistry (BASF, Volkswagen), Stanford, USA

2013

- Prize of the Justus-Liebig-University Giessen

2012

- Prize of the German working group of professors (ADUC) of the German Chemical Society (GDCh)
Scholarship for young investigator research group leaders (Habilitanden)

2007

- Brian Kelly Award of the British Carbon Group
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