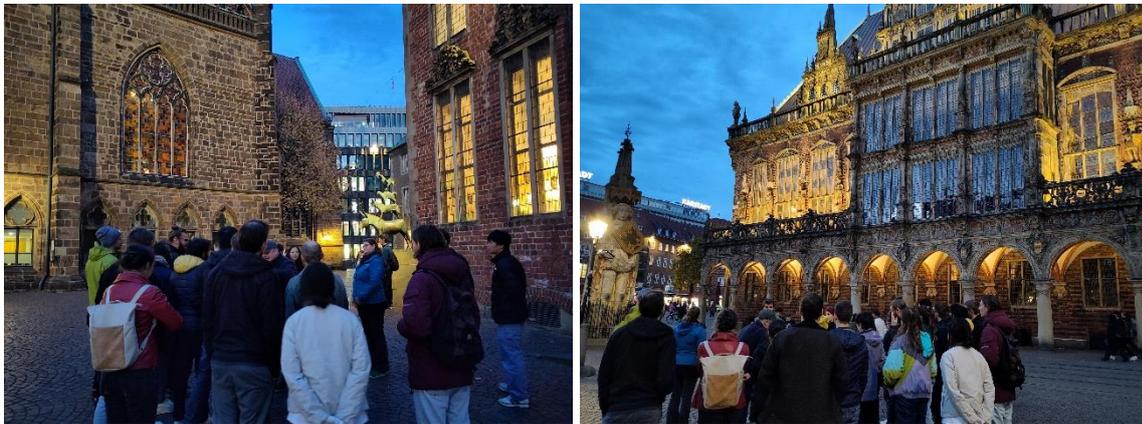


HITEC Retreat Bremen

Moin, moin! From 5 to 7 November 2025, 26 doctoral researchers from the HITEC Graduate School came together in Bremen for a three-day scientific retreat aimed at fostering collaboration and academic exchange across research fields. We set off from Cologne early on Wednesday morning and arrived shortly after midday at the ATLANTIC Grand Hotel Bremen. The retreat began with a welcome from the organizers and a get-to-know-each-other session with a small team-building game. After checking in and enjoying a bit of free time, the group came together for a guided city tour.

Bremen's historic highlights were brought to life with lively and humorous commentary, with the charming Schnoor district proving to be a particular favorite. The day ended with an optional group dinner at Paulaner's an der Schlachte.



Thursday was all about scientific exchange. After breakfast, we kicked off with a poster carousel where each doctoral researcher presented the research within their PhD. The session highlighted the incredible diversity of research within HITEC and sparked many interdisciplinary discussions. After a coffee break, the day continued with lightning talks—short, four-minute presentations followed by two minutes for questions. Spread across two sessions, these talks covered a wide range of topics and encouraged lively debate.

In the late afternoon, a wrap-up session sparked particularly engaging—and at times provocative—discussions. Participants debated statements about the energy transition, the role of natural sciences in society, and researchers' responsibilities in public communication.

Differences in disciplinary perspectives led to interactive exchanges, especially around the topic of carbon capture and storage. These discussions highlighted the importance of critical thinking and open dialogue between researchers. In addition, Chantal Kierdorf was voted for the Best Poster Award. The evening was wrapped up with some free time and an optional group dinner at the Markthalle 8 housing a variety of street food options.



On Friday morning, participants checked out and made their way to Universum Bremen on foot or by public transport. The visit to Universum Bremen offered a broad exploration of scientific themes. After returning to Bremen Central Station, participants departed individually in the afternoon.

All in all, the 2025 HITEC retreat offered valuable opportunities for networking and interdisciplinary exchange between the HITEC doctoral students as well as inspiration for their future research.

