Frequently asked questions (FAQs)
DestinationTUM – Doctoral Week 2021

1) Eligibility Criteria

1.1 What research areas are applicable?
You will find the possible research fields listed on the websites of the TUM Schools and Departments, TUM Clusters of Excellence or TUM Research Centers.

1.2 Can I apply for DestinationTUM if I have graduated/will graduate from a Master’s program in Germany?
Participation in DestinationTUM is possible for all eligible applicants from an institution other than TUM. This may be subject to change in the future as the event primarily addresses international candidates living outside of Germany.

1.3 What kind of a university degree enables me to apply for the event/the doctorate at TUM? What if I have a foreign degree?
Admission to a doctorate at TUM requires a completed university degree (Diploma, Magister or Master’s) with above-average results, an equivalent state examination, or a Master’s examination at a university of applied science.

As a general rule, a foreign master's degree acquired following a subject-related bachelor's degree (with a time frame of 1-2-years) and completed with an examination and an independent academic thesis should fulfil the requirements. However, the final decision (and possible conditions) belong to the corresponding dean’s office of the Academic Department/School of the potential doctoral supervisor. You will find the requirements in §3 and §5 of the TUM Regulations for the Award of Doctoral Degrees.

1.4 I already secured a supervisor and am currently preparing to start my doctorate at TUM. Can I still apply for the event?
No, in this case you are unfortunately not eligible. For questions regarding your doctorate feel free to contact the Welcome Office of the Graduate School.

1.5 How long after graduating from my Master’s program am I eligible to apply for the event?
You can apply for DestinationTUM if you have completed a 2-year Master’s program no earlier than 3 years before the event.

1.6 Can I apply for the event if I haven’t graduated from a Master’s program yet?
You can apply if you will graduate before September 2021.

1.7 What language skills are necessary to participate in DestinationTUM and what language skills are necessary for doctoral admission at TUM?
The knowledge of German is not a requirement for the participation in the event.

Doing your doctoral research at TUM requires very good written and spoken English skills. Although we do not require any test results like IELTS or TOEFL for application and admission, you need to be able to understand
English and communicate fluently in English with your doctoral supervisor and colleagues, as well as the international science community. However, some doctoral supervisors might have individual language requirements that will need to be discussed with the potential supervisor in question.

2) Application Portal/ Application Documents

2.1 Can I submit documents after the deadline?

Your application can only be taken into consideration if it is submitted on March 21, 2021 at the latest.

2.2 Can I update my application after the deadline?

Due to fairness reasons, additions or changes will not be possible after the deadline.

2.3 How do I know that my application is complete?

The application is only possible after uploading all required files.

2.4 Can I upload restricted PDF files?

Please upload PDF files without any restrictions, otherwise the Selection Board will not be able to see them.

2.5 Who should I address my motivation letter to for my application to be appropriately directed?

If you want to write the letter of motivation in a letter style, you can address the Selection Board. Keep in mind that the letter has to be written in English and should also be understandable for a reader who is not an expert in your specific research field. Make sure you address the required points (interest in TUM and respective TUM professors).

2.6 What references/recommendation letters can I submit?

Please do not submit references from professors outside of TUM. If you have already been in contact with a TUM professor who wants to support your application, you can submit a short reference statement. Otherwise a reference or recommendation letter is not required.

2.7 In what language should all the documents be submitted? Can they be submitted in German?

All documents need to be written in or translated to English since not all members of the Selection Committee speak German.

2.8 Do I need to submit a detailed research proposal?

The short proposal on your research focus included in your motivation letter does not have to be finalized but rather outline the research idea you intend to work on during your doctorate.

3) Host Professors

3.1 How can I find professors fitting my research profile?

You may use the following websites to help you find professors who fit your research profile: TUM Schools and Departments, TUM Clusters of Excellence or TUM Research Centers. You may also go through the list of TUM Professors or TUM Junior Fellows.

Please note that only TUM Professors, TUM Head of Institutes or Chairs and TUM Junior Fellows may be named as potential doctoral supervisors.
Other scientists, including Honorary Professors, Distinguished Affiliated Professors, retired professors including the TUM Emeriti of Excellence and TUM President Prof. Dr. Thomas F. Hofmann cannot be named here.

3.2 How can I find out about the status of a professor?

If the professor is not mentioned in the List of Professors at TUM or the List of TUM Junior Fellows, please also check the website of a respective department or institute. If you are still in doubt, feel free to contact us before submitting your application.

3.3 Should I contact the professors I name in advance?

Please refrain from contacting professors for your DestinationTUM application unless you have already been in touch with them regarding that subject. Even then, you do not need to inform them that you list them in your application.

4) Selection of the Participants

4.1 Is there a limit on the number of participants?

This year, the number of participants is not fixed. All applicants whose applications are recommended by the Selection Committee will be invited. The number of participants will only be limited for the workshop: Self-Presentation & Networking. The registration for the workshop “Self-Presentation & Networking” will be possible for all invited participants of DestinationTUM after March 26th, 2021 and will follow the first-come, first-serve principle.

4.2 Is the number of publications a strict criterion for a successful application?

A list of publications is not mandatory. However, depending on the research area, the Selection Committee might look at your track record to determine your scientific excellence. The members are of course aware that the situation and standards vary for different fields.

4.3 When will I be informed about the results?

All applicants will be contacted before March 26th, 2021.

4.4 March 26th has passed and I did not hear back from TUM.

We get back to every applicant who submitted an application via the application portal. However, in rare cases, emails which we send via our portal do not reach applicants. Please also log in to the portal and check in the activity stream whether you have received a message there. Please send us an email only if you do not receive a message in the portal.

5) Event Participation

5.1 What are the next steps if I am invited to participate?

After the invitation you will need to reconfirm your participation in the event and might need to sign up for specific sessions, e.g. the workshop “Self-Presentation & Networking”. You may also need to create a profile in the tool that will be used for the Career Opportunities Fair. Other than this, you do not need to prepare anything for the week.

5.2 What happens if I am selected, but not able to attend the event?

Please make sure you let us know as soon as you know that you won’t be able to attend the event to cancel your participation.
5.3 Are there any costs involved in participating in the event?

The event is free of charge for all selected participants.

5.4 Which tools will be used for the virtual event?

The Career Opportunities Fair as well as the Meet & Greet sessions on April 13\textsuperscript{th} and 14\textsuperscript{th} will be conducted via a professional event platform. All other parts of the program will be offered via Zoom Webinar.

5.5 Is it possible to attend just some parts of the program instead of the whole week?

We strongly recommend you attend all sessions to make the most of the week. However, there is no obligation to attend all sessions.

In respect of the different time zones of the participants, the Career Opportunities Fair as well as our main information events will be offered twice with the same contents.

5.6 Will the professors I name in my application take part in the Career Opportunities Fair?

The TUM Board of Management has invited all TUM professors to join the fair. However, it is up to the professors if they or some of their team members join the fair. On our website we will include the list of chairs, institutes and project present at the fair. However, their participation may be subject to changes.

6) Contact

DestinationTUM – Doctoral Week 2021

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