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TUM Graduate School  
Technical University of Munich



January 2025

## Newsletter for Doctoral Candidates

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Dear Doctoral Candidates,

We hope you all had a lovely holiday season and wish you a happy, healthy, and amazing 2025! We look forward to continuing to support you in your professional and personal journey and meeting you soon at one of our transferable skills training courses, information sessions, and other events in 2025.

On this note, in the [TUM-GS News](#) section, we wish to share that on 15 January, at noon, our TUM-GS Kick-Off Seminars until April 2025 will be open for registration.

With the start of the new year, the TUM [Graduate Council](#) has exciting news: A warm welcome to Jessica Bielski as the new 1st Speaker of the Graduate Council! She and Leon Chryssos, who will resume his 2nd Speaker position for the 2025 term, look forward to guiding the TUM Graduate Council into its next chapter. Congratulations to Jessica and Leon! We take this opportunity to also thank Stuart Daniel James, the GC's 1st Speaker in 2024, for his unwavering support and engagement for the cause of TUM doctoral candidates and wish him all the best for his professional and personal future.

Plan ahead and get excited about the many internationalization offers the TUM Graduate School provides. Read the recap of the TUM-GS's two-part Summer/Winter School with the São Paulo State University (UNESP) in the [Internationalization](#) section and get inspired to build your own international research & personal network. These opportunities are not just about expanding your academic horizons but also about creating a global network that will shape your future career.

Last but not least, we compiled further interesting events and calls for you in the [TUM & Co.](#) section. In this edition, we especially highlight the TUM Open Access Publication Fund relaunch. Also, don't forget to re-enroll as doctoral students for the summer semester 2025 before 15 February.

## TUM-GS News

### New Registration Process for Kick-Off Seminars starting 15 January

On 15 January, at noon, our [TUM-GS Kick-Off Seminars](#) until April 2025 will be open for registration. This will also start a new registration process: Beginning in January, **you will have one week to apply for a spot** in the Kick-Off seminar of your choice, **from 15 January (noon) to 22 January (noon)**.

After 22 January, **we will randomly select from the applications** who will get a spot. This means we will no longer use a first-come, first-served system, i.e., it does not matter when you sign up during the week.

This new process **only concerns the Kick-Off seminars at the TUM Science & Study Center Raitenhaslach**; spots in the online version of the



Impression from our Kick-Off Seminar.  
(Photo: Andreas Heddergott/TUM)

Kick-off are assigned according to specific criteria. Please review [our website](#) and [wiki](#) for more information and upcoming dates.

More information

## Graduate Council

### Meet the New GC Speakers for 2025

The TUM Graduate Council (GC) is delighted to announce the transition of the 1st Speaker position. This role, previously held by Stuart Daniel James (Graduate Center, TUM ED), will now be taken over by Jessica Bielski (Graduate Center, TUM ED). Stuart has made significant contributions, and the GC is grateful for his outstanding leadership. Moving forward, Jessica brings competence, drive, and innovative thinking to this position. Her proven ability to lead and inspire makes her the ideal choice to guide the TUM Graduate Council into its next chapter. The team is excited to welcome her and looks forward to her fresh ideas and initiative of “being the change you want to see.” Additionally, the GC is pleased to retain Leon Chryssos (Graduate Center, TUM NAT) as its 2nd Speaker. His continued presence ensures valuable continuity and expertise, which will greatly support the leadership team.



Newly Elected Speakers of TUM Graduate Council 2025. FLTR: Leon Chryssos (2nd Speaker), Jessica Bielski (New 1st Speaker), Stuart Daniel James (Previous 1st Speaker) (Photo: Luca Sacchetto)

Congratulations to Jessica again on this well-deserved appointment! The entire GC team has high expectations and is eager to support her in this new role. Cheers to an exciting future under her leadership.

Find out more

### Celebrating Excellence: Awards and Festivities at the 115th GC-Meeting

During the 115th GC-Meeting, the Graduate Council (GC) honored all the GC’s Associate Members and volunteers in a special award ceremony. Each member was presented with a certificate as a token of heartfelt gratitude for their incredible contributions to making TUMblue 2024 a smooth and seamless success. This event, one of the GC’s most important milestones, was made possible by their dedication, hard work, and unwavering support. Their efforts ensured everything ran efficiently and created an exceptional experience for all involved.

Following the ceremony, the celebrations continued with an unforgettable Christmas Party. The evening was filled with festive cheer, laughter, and camaraderie, providing the perfect opportunity to



A snapshot of the Award Ceremony. FLTR: Leon Chryssos (2nd GC Speaker), Mariam Mohamadi (Associate Member), Sonia Darvishi (Associate Member), Stuart Daniel James (1st GC Speaker, 2024) (Photo: Luca Sacchetto)

reflect on the year's accomplishments and look ahead to even greater success in the future.

[Learn more](#)

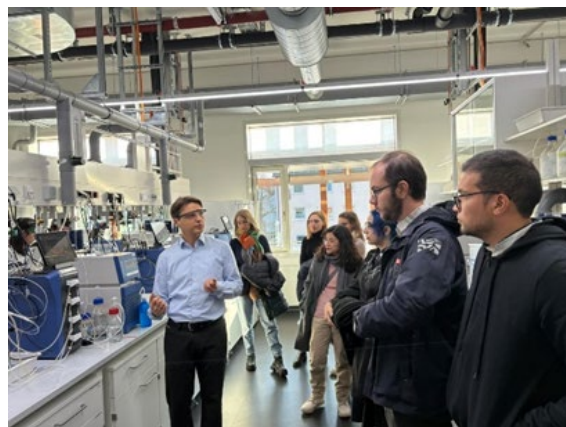
## Internationalization

### Successful conclusion of the TUM-UNESP Winter School

In December 2024, we successfully concluded our inaugural two-part Summer/Winter School with the São Paulo State University (UNESP). Under the interdisciplinary theme of "Climate-Responsive Sustainable Resource Management," this two-part program brought together doctoral candidates from both institutions to collaboratively explore innovative approaches to sustainable resource management and bioeconomy solutions to address climate challenges.

The program included a week in São Paulo and a week at TUM, facilitating an exchange of ideas and strategies between doctoral candidates and researchers from both universities.

Read our summary of the program on the [TUM Graduate School's website](#).



Professor Dr. Michael Zavrel welcomes TUM-UNESP Winter School participants to his research lab.  
(Photo: Eder Ludovico)

Are you interested in a closer research collaboration with UNESP? Check out our [TUM-UNESP Research Exchange Program](#) for 3-6 months of research stays at UNESP.

[Find out more](#)

## TUM & Co.

### Deadline for re-enrolment as doctoral students for the summer semester 2025

Doctoral candidates wishing to re-enroll as doctoral students for the summer semester 2025 are reminded to transfer the semester fees until 15 February 2025.

<https://www.tum.de/en/studies/fees>

### Reminder: TUM Graduate School photo competition "My research highlights 2024"

Participate in the TUM-GS photo competition "My research highlights 2024" and share your personal success, whether it was a presentation at a conference, a research stay abroad, a successful experiment, a research retreat, an important lesson learned, or something completely different with the TUM-GS Community. Participation is possible until 20 January 2025.

<https://www.gs.tum.de/gs/singleview/article/photo-competition-your-research-highlight-2024-terms-conditions/>

### Welcome@TUM-GS Event: Paleontological Museum

Are you new in town and at TUM? Join us for our next Welcome@TUM-GS event on 15 January 2025 and visit the Paleontological Museum. The Paleontological Museum is part of the Bavarian State Collection for Paleontology and Geology and is dedicated to the history of the development of

the earth and life. It displays fossils from all eras of the earth's history, from the earliest beginnings over three billion years ago to the present day.

<https://www.gs.tum.de/gs/welcome-office/welcome-tum-gs/program-and-registration/>

### **Open Access: Publish & Read agreements extended for 2025**

As a TUM member, you benefit from Publish & Read contracts with leading publishers and academic societies. You can publish your research findings in Open Access at no personal cost and enjoy online access to 150,000 journals. For 2025, the University Library successfully extended many existing agreements and secured new ones, including Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, IEEE, ACS, Taylor & Francis, Sage, and Oxford University Press.

<https://www.ub.tum.de/en/news/open-access-publish-read-agreements-extended-2025>

### **Open Access Publication Fund Relaunch in 2025**

TUM receives funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG) under the "Open Access Publication Funding" program from 2025 to 2027. This allows the University Library to relaunch the Open Access Publication Fund. Applications for publication grants can be submitted starting February 2025. Eligible for funding are journal articles published in Open Access and under a CC BY license.

<https://www.ub.tum.de/en/news/open-access-publication-fund-relaunch-2025>

### **Onboarding for new TUM teaching staff**

In this twelve-hour online course, TUM ProLehre | Media and Didactics provides new teaching staff with the essential didactic and technical basics for teaching at a university. Whether supervising theses, designing courses, or developing examinations – the onboarding course supports doctoral candidates and postdocs in mastering challenges confidently and inspiring students in the long term.

<https://www.prolehre.tum.de/en/prolehre/programs-services/courses-certification/onboarding-for-new-teaching-staff-at-tum/>

### **Call for application: Participation in the 12<sup>th</sup> Heidelberg Laureate Forum**

Young researchers in mathematics and computer science can apply for one of the 200 exclusive spots to participate in the Heidelberg Laureate Forum (HLF), an annual networking conference. The HLF offers all accepted young researchers the unique opportunity to interact with the laureates of the most prestigious prizes in mathematics and computer science. Application is possible until 11 February 2025.

<https://www.newsroom.hlf-foundation.org/news/article/call-for-applications-participation-in-the-12th-heidelberg-laureate-forum/>

### **IKOM Bau 2025**

IKOM Bau is an annual career forum for students and graduates specializing in civil & environmental engineering, geosciences, and architecture, where over 90 companies from the sectors present themselves. Many workshops, personal meetings, and start-up pool interviews are on offer. The next IKOM Bau will be held from 27 to 28 January 2025 at the TUM main campus at Arcisstraße 21.

<https://ikom-tum.de/bau/students/> (in German only)

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Best regards from the TUM-GS Management Office Team,



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International Alliances,  
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