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TUM Graduate School
Technical University of Munich



August 2025

Newsletter for Doctoral Candidates

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Dear Doctoral Candidates,

We hope you're having a wonderful summer and lecture break! In this edition of our newsletter, we've gathered exciting events and opportunities to support your doctoral journey.

First, we are happy to announce the second TUM Doctoral Day on 19 September at TUM Munich Downtown Campus! This year's theme is all about "Positive Impact through Collaboration". The program offers an exciting mixture of a keynote, interactive workshops, a networking session, and a panel discussion.

Moreover, we released the third edition of our "Skills Booster" video series about time management. Check out the video featuring Dr. Daniel Kunzelmann and learn practical strategies to manage your time effectively during your doctorate.

The [TUM Graduate Council](#) invites you to the legendary networking event TUMblue that will take place right after the TUM Doctoral Day on 19 September from 6:30 p.m. until 2 a.m.! This year's motto is "TUMblue da ba dee da ba di – Defend your thesis, not your dance moves". Do you want to take the stage in the ShowOff science communication competition? Sign up and show us what you've got!

In the [Internationalization section](#), we would like to reflect on our successful Global Fellows Program from 28 July to 1 August 2025 in Munich. It was a pleasure to host our guests from Imperial College London and Nanyang Technological University Singapore.

Additionally, our doctoral candidate, Christina Dollinger, shares insights from her research stay in Japan in our latest "Greetings from Abroad" social media feature.

Last but not least, we compiled further interesting events and calls for you in the [TUM & Co](#) section.



GOOD TO KNOW:

Re-enrollment deadline for winter semester 2025/2026

The deadline for **re-enrollment as doctoral students** for the upcoming winter semester ends on **15 August!** If you wish to re-enroll, do not forget to transfer the semester fee before that date. Detailed information about the semester fee and the bank details can be found [here](#). Reminder: Enrollment as a doctoral student is voluntary for doctoral candidates and is possible for a maximum period of 8 semesters.

Join us for the TUM Doctoral Day on 19 September!

On Friday, 19 September 2025, we warmly welcome all TUM doctoral candidates to a tailor-made program designed exclusively for the TUM doctoral community. Our second university-wide Doctoral Day will take place from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the TUM Munich Downtown Campus. Our program starts with a keynote speech from Professor Dr. Melita Kovačević on “Creating Positive Impact Through Collaboration”, followed by our info and interaction fair, where you can connect with other doctoral candidates from different disciplines, meet your Graduate Center, and receive advice at information booths on international and interdisciplinary collaboration and funding opportunities. Participate in one of our impulse workshops, which are designed for different stages of your doctorate and help you broaden your horizon.



Doctoral candidates in the audience
(Photo: Andreas Heddergott/TUM)

[Our program](#) will close with a panel discussion on “Collaboration against the Odds: How to Create and Maintain Positive Collaboration in Uncertain Times” with experts from academia and science communication. The places are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, and the demand for places at the Doctoral Day is high. So register today for one of the spots!

[Register here](#)

Skills Booster: Elevate Your Potential with the TUM-GS Transferable Skills Training – Ep. 3 on Time Management

Welcome to another episode of Skills Booster, the video series designed to support doctoral candidates with valuable insights into the Transferable Skills Training at the TUM Graduate School.

This time, we explore the topic of Time Management. Our expert, Dr. Daniel Kunzelmann, a cultural anthropologist and trainer at TUM-GS, offers a fresh perspective on how we perceive and structure our time. He shares thoughtful reflections on what it means to manage time effectively during the doctoral journey, along with personal insights into what worked for him, what didn't, and the lessons he wishes he had learned earlier.



Skills Booster: Time Management Video
(Photo: TUM-GS)

Don't miss this insightful episode to better understand time management and how to make it work for you. If you want to discover what else TUM-GS has to offer, have a look at our [Transferable Skills Training](#) courses. Registrations for the winter semester will be activated gradually throughout August.

[Watch on YouTube](#)

Graduate Council

Save your spot for TUMblue on 19 September!

After the TUM Doctoral Day, the festivities continue with TUMblue – the legendary networking event hosted by the TUM Graduate Council. From 6:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., the evening is dedicated to the doctoral community, filled with energy, connection, and celebration.

This year's theme, "TUMblue da ba dee da ba di – Defend your thesis, not your dance moves," sets the tone for a vibrant night of science, music, and games. You can look forward to a dynamic science communication competition, live performances, engaging activities at the DocRepGames Fair, and a DJ stage that will keep the party going until late.



Doctoral candidates at TUMblue
(Photo: TUM-GC)

Plus, the first 500 guests will receive food vouchers and free drinks – so register now via DocGS and join us for an unforgettable night. The TUM Graduate Council is looking forward to partying with you!

[Register here](#)

Step into the spotlight at TUMblue's ShowOff 2025!

Do you have an exciting research topic? You want to compete, entertain, and win a prize? Then the TUMblue ShowOff is your moment to shine!

This fast-paced science communication contest – taking place during TUMblue on 19 September – gives you 3 minutes to share your research with a curious and supportive crowd – no slides allowed, just your ideas, energy, and whatever props you can carry on stage. Doctoral candidates from each TUM School will go head-to-head to see who can communicate their science the most clearly, creatively, and convincingly. The winning performance takes home a great prize – and serious bragging rights for their Graduate Centre.



A woman presenting at a stage
(Photo: Unsplash/Jametlene Reskp)

Ready to ShowOff? What are you waiting for? Contact the TUM Graduate Council via gc-tumblue@gs.tum.de to sign up or ask questions. Spots are limited!

[Sign up](#)

Internationalization

Impressions of the Global Fellows Program 2025

We were delighted to host this year's [Global Fellows Program](#) in Munich, welcoming doctoral candidates from Imperial College London, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, and the Technical University of Munich. This unique trilateral summer school, held over five days, rotates annually between Munich, London, and Singapore, offering participants a dynamic platform to strengthen essential soft skills such as collaboration, communication, and creativity. The 2025 program centered on the theme "Multidisciplinary Solutions for Climate-Responsive Societies."



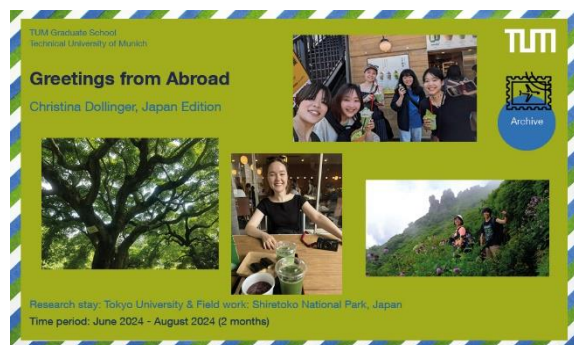
Global Fellows Program 2025
(Photo: TUM-GS)

Throughout the week, 37 participants engaged in team-building activities, developed innovative ideas, and deepened their understanding of international and interdisciplinary teamwork. The experience not only broadened their academic and professional horizons but also fostered meaningful personal connections.

Greetings from Abroad – Impressions from Doctoral Candidates

We're excited to present you with another postcard from our series, "[Greetings from Abroad](#)", where we highlight the adventures and insights of our doctoral candidates spending time around the globe.

Christina Dollinger, a doctoral candidate from the Chair of Ecosystem Dynamics and Forest Management in Mountain Landscapes (TUM School of Life Sciences), shared insights into her time abroad in Japan. She combined a research stay at the University of Tokyo and field work in the Shiretoko National Park.



Impressions of Christina's research stay in Japan in 2024
(Photo: TUM-GS/ Christina Dollinger)

Looking back at this experience, Christina says: "I loved living and working in Tokyo! The city itself is amazing, of course, but especially my Japanese colleagues at the University of Tokyo made the experience unforgettable. I feel very lucky to be able to work with people like them. Science only works when we share our expertise across borders, cultures, and languages."

Did you also spend time abroad, and would you like to share this experience with the TUM-GS community? To get involved, contact publicrelations@gs.tum.de and get featured.

[Learn more](#)

SEED Annual Symposium 2025: Join the Poster Session!

The SEED Annual Symposium is a pivotal international event that offers a supportive platform for our global community of researchers, taking place from 25 to 29 August 2025 in Munich. The symposium will bring together voices from around the world to explore the themes of mini-grids, entrepreneurship, and sustainable transformation in the Global South. On Tuesday, 26 August, doctoral candidates are invited to join the poster session from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Foyer 0604 at Arcisstr. 21.

<https://web.tum.de/seed/annual-symposium/>

Free places in TUM daycare facilities (0/1-3 years)

Good news for parents! In four of the TUM daycare facilities (Glückskinder Daycare in Freising-Weihenstephan, Forscherzwerge Daycare center in Munich, Ingeborg-Ortner-Kinderhaus in Garching, and Krabbelstube Day nursery in Freising-Weihenstephan), there are free places for children of TUM university members.

<https://www.zv.tum.de/en/diversity/news-events/news-singleview-en/article/freie-betreuungsplaetze-in-den-tum-kitas-0-3-jahre/>

Exhibition “Trees, Time, Architecture”

Until 14 September, it is possible to visit the exhibition “Trees, Time, Architecture” at the Architecture Museum of TUM. The exhibition explores the potential and contradictions of ‘building on trees’ in architecture and landscape architecture. It also highlights the tension between the slowness with which trees grow and the urgency of finding answers to burning ecological and social questions here and now. <https://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/exhibitions/trees-time-architecture/>

Call for Application: DFG Communicator Award

The Communicator Award is awarded to individual researchers and teams who creatively and effectively make their research and methods accessible to the public – fostering dialogue and building trust between science and society. The award is funded annually with 50,000 € by the Donors’ Association. Applications are only possible in German, and the deadline is 30 September 2025.

<https://www.dfg.de/en/research-funding/funding-opportunities/prizes/communicator-award>

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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