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TUM Graduate School
Technical University of Munich



November 2025

Newsletter for Doctoral Candidates

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Dear Doctoral Candidates,

We hope you had a great start to the winter semester 2025/2026 and enjoy the autumn season!

In the November edition of our newsletter, we present a selection of exciting events, opportunities, and offers from the TUM community.

We are pleased to announce our upcoming event dedicated to [First-Generation Academics](#). If you are the first in your family (or among the first) to pursue a university degree, we warmly invite you to join us for our next Info & Networking Event on Wednesday, 17 December. This gathering offers a welcoming space for First-Generation Academics with similar backgrounds to connect, share experiences, and learn more about the support available at TUM. Whether you're looking for inspiration, community, or practical advice, this event is the perfect opportunity for you.

In the [TUM Graduate Council](#) section of our newsletter, we learn about the first Graduate Council meeting, which took place with the new doctoral representatives from each school, as well as the topics on which the working groups are currently working.

In this month's [Internationalization section](#), we highlight the TUM-NTU Joint Supervision Program – a unique opportunity for doctoral candidates to engage in international research collaboration with Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. This program not only allows you to deepen your academic expertise but also offers a chance to immerse yourself in a new cultural and professional environment.

Moreover, we're also delighted to share the latest entry in our "[Greetings from Abroad](#)" series. Sonia Darvishi, a doctoral candidate at the Chair of Neurological Clinic and Policlinic, spent one month in Stockholm and reflects on her experiences abroad – from research insights to personal impressions. Her postcard is a perfect reminder of the value of international exchange.

Lastly, we have compiled further interesting events and calls for you in the TUM & Co. section.



GOOD TO KNOW:

Have you already had a look at our Welcome@TUM-GS program for the winter semester? We invite all doctoral candidates who started their doctorate within the last 12 months to take part in our Welcome@TUM-GS Event Program! Meet your peers in a leisurely setting to explore TUM, Munich, and its surroundings. The next event will take place on Saturday, 22 November. Link to the whole program: <https://www.gs.tum.de/gs/welcome-office/welcome-tum-gs/program-and-registration/>

First Generation Academics Info & Networking Event on 17 December!

First-Generation Academics – those who are the first in their families to pursue higher education – bring unique perspectives and strengths to academia. Yet many face challenges along the way, and at times, they may feel alienated from either the university or their family during their doctorate.

Our Info & Networking Event on 17 December is for master's students curious about a doctorate, doctoral candidates navigating academic life, and anyone interested in supporting and celebrating diversity at TUM – including those wishing to be allies to First-Generation Academics. Let's come together to share experiences, learn from one another, and strengthen our TUM community.



First Generation Academics Info Event 2025
(Photo: TUM-GS)

The evening will feature a keynote by Professor Dr. Achim J. Lilienthal, Chair of Perception for Intelligent Systems at CIT, who will share insights from his personal academic journey. In addition, Nina Feustel-Durst, professional coach and member of TUM's coaching pool for First-Generation Academics, will offer an inspiring input talk. You'll also learn more about the support structures available at TUM for First-Generation doctoral candidates – and have the chance to connect with peers, share experiences, and build your network in a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.

Join us for an evening of exchange, insight, and connection! We look forward to seeing you there! Please register for this event by 11 December.

[Register now](#)

Graduate Council

News from the Graduate Council

On 23 October, the first Graduate Council (GC) meeting took place with all of the new doctoral representatives from each school. The GC speakers were delighted to see so many new faces and a great attendance. Even though that meeting mainly involved the new elected members, any doctoral candidate interested in participating in the GC can do so and join as an associate member. The Graduate Council has working groups that are constantly looking for volunteers, some examples:

- TUMblue: Just a few weeks ago, the GC held the networking event at the city center campus. This event features networking, music, and complimentary food and drinks. Planning for next year's event is already underway, and the GC is seeking a team lead!
- Supervision: Every year, the GC awards the supervisory award for excellent supervision. There are school winners, and one of the school winners is awarded the TUM-wide supervisory award. The award comes with 5000€ of prize money. If you want to help the Graduate Council look for the next winner of the supervisory award, please reach out!

There are a few other groups as well, oriented around supervision improvements and general working conditions.) If you are interested, please join the next GC meeting, which will also serve as our Christmas party on 3 December 2025. Please contact the Graduate Council for details (gc-speakers@gs.tum.de).

[Learn more](#)

Internationalization

TUM-NTU Joint Supervision Program

Have you heard about our exciting collaboration with Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU)? Through the TUM-NTU Joint Supervision Program, doctoral candidates have the opportunity to benefit from academic co-supervision by both a TUM supervisor and a co-supervisor at NTU. Since its founding in 1991, NTU has grown into a globally recognized institution known for its cutting-edge research and innovation.

This program is designed for researchers eager to expand their international academic profile and engage in cross-cultural research collaborations. At the heart of the program is a 12-month research stay at NTU, Singapore, where participants join the research group of their NTU co-supervisor and immerse themselves in a dynamic and interdisciplinary environment.



Singapore by night
(Photo: Pexels)

Candidates participating in the Joint Supervision Program will have at least one supervisor at each institution from the start of their doctoral project. One of the eligibility criteria is that you must apply within the first 12 months of doctoral registration at TUM. For more information about eligibility and the application process, please visit our website.

[Learn more](#)

Greetings from Abroad – Impressions from Doctoral Candidates

Sonia Darvishi, a doctoral candidate at the Chair of Neurological Clinic and Polyclinic (TUM School of Medicine and Health), spent a month at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. Her research stay offered a unique opportunity to collaborate internationally, explore new scientific perspectives, and immerse herself in a vibrant academic environment. Captured in snapshots – from presentations to teamwork – Sonia's experience reflects the value of stepping beyond borders during the doctoral journey.



Impression of Sonia's research stay in Stockholm
(Photo: TUM-GS/ Sonia Darvishi)

She shares: "I've learned that being open, collaborative, and willing to learn from others makes research more meaningful, enjoyable, and effective."

The "Greetings from Abroad" format showcases on social media the diverse and inspiring experiences of our doctoral researchers worldwide. Are you currently abroad or planning to go? If you would like to be featured in "Greetings from Abroad", please send an email to publicrelations@gs.tum.de.

Find out more

TUM & Co.

Agnes-Mackensen-Program (AMP) 2026 Cohort

The Agnes-Mackensen-Program continues to empower First-Generation Academics and FINTA individuals – that is, women, intersex, non-binary, trans, and agender people whose parents have not studied or who have grown up in a non-academic environment – to join the program as mentees or mentors. Through mentoring, networking, and practical workshops, the program enhances the self-efficacy of First-Generation Academics, fosters their leadership skills and personal development, and cultivates an inspiring community for empowerment and exchange at TUM. <https://www.zv.tum.de/en/diversity/stabsstelle-diversity-inclusion/diversity-inclusion/agnes-mackensen-program/>

TEDxTUM Event "Now What" on 8 November

The world is changing rapidly: wars are raging, societies are polarizing, economies are faltering - trends emerge just as quickly as they disappear. How do we deal with uncertainty? Guided by the theme "Now what?" TEDxTUM 2025 builds on the innovative and dynamic spirit of TUM: problem-solving does not mean finding the perfect answer immediately, but rather asking the right questions, exploring new paths, and daring to take new approaches – even when the outcome is uncertain. Because only those who dare to try something new can grow beyond what was previously possible. <https://www.tedxtum.com/events/tedxtum-2025-now-what/>

New Course Dates: TUMFIS Essentials – Visibility for Research Performance at TUM

Join the one-hour webinar for a hands-on overview of the key features of TUMFIS, the research information system of TUM. You'll learn how to manage your research activities, projects, and publications in TUMFIS and make them visible to the public. More information, dates & registration: <https://www.ub.tum.de/en/tumfis-essentials>

TUM eLabFTW – The Electronic Lab Notebook of TUM

Document your research now with TUM eLabFTW! This web-based electronic lab notebook (ELN) enables you to work intuitively, efficiently, and securely – together with your research team and external project partners. Get valuable tips for getting started with TUM eLabFTW in a compact course offered by the University Library. More information, registration & login: <https://www.ub.tum.de/en/elabftw>

Professional Teaching Conference

On 12 November, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., the Professional Teaching Conference, organized by ProLehre, will take place in the IAS building in Garching. Entitled "Knowledge was power?!", the conference will focus on the topic of knowledge, which has become ubiquitous and increasingly accessible in the age of AI. All interested parties are cordially invited to attend this free event. <https://www.prolehre.tum.de/prolehre/tagung-professionelle-lehre-2025/> (website is only available in German)

From Doctorate to Industry

In this webinar, successful TUM Alumni present their job description and career paths online and answer your questions. Anyone who wants to move into industry after completing their doctorate should inform themselves well: What are the career prospects? How do you get started? In this series, successful TUM Alumni present their job description and career paths online and answer questions from participants. The next event will be on 3 December at 6 p.m. with TUM Alumna Dr. Sophie Mader, who is currently a Clinical Research Associate at Palles Healthcare GmbH. <https://www.community.tum.de/veranstaltung/5318/>

Alumni Q&A: Engineering Careers in Biotech Industry

On 10 December, you have the exclusive opportunity to speak to TUM Alumnus Günter Tenzler (Diploma Mechanical Engineering 1989), founder and owner of Inheco in Martinsried. The medium-sized company provides control devices for lab automation to clients in the life sciences and pharmacy domains around the globe, and today has an international workforce. This webinar is a unique opportunity to learn from the career journey of a mechanical engineer to a founder and CEO for 20 years in the biotech industry. Gain expert insights into the state of the biotech industry and its global trends, demands, and your career opportunities in a growing market! <https://www.community.tum.de/veranstaltungen/?start-date=&end-date=&q=Engineering+Careers>

Call for Application: Science Competition in the Science Year 2026

The Science Competition 2026 – Medicine of the Future invites students and early-career researchers in Germany to submit creative science communication projects exploring tomorrow's healthcare. From AI-driven diagnostics to participatory art installations, the goal is to spark public dialogue and make future medicine tangible. The top ten ideas will receive 10,000 € each and year-round support from Wissenschaft im Dialog. Apply by 30 November 2025. <https://www.hochschulwettbewerb.net/2026/wettbewerb/> (website is only available in German)

Call for Application: Roman Herzog Forschungspreis 2026

Every year, the Roman Herzog Institute awards the Roman Herzog Research Prize for Social Market Economy to three young researchers who are exploring the future viability of our economic and social order. With prize money totaling €35,000, this research prize is one of the most highly endowed awards for dissertations and postdoctoral theses in the German-speaking world. Deadline for the application is 31 December 2025. <https://www.romanherzoginstitut.de/ausschreibungstext-roman-herzog-forschungspreis-soziale-marktwirtschaft/> (website is only available in German).

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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