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TUM Graduate School
Technical University of Munich



December 2024

Newsletter for Doctoral Candidates

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Dear Doctoral Candidates,

We hope you enjoy the festive season and have a successful end-of-year spurt in 2024! In our last newsletter in 2024, we have collected exciting events, opportunities, and helpful information.

On 18 December, we invite all doctoral candidates to our [networking event for First Generation Academics](#) in the winter semester. During the event, connect with your peers and be inspired by our speakers who share practical tips and personal experiences. We are also happy to announce that another episode of our video interview series, [“Welcome to my Lab”](#), is out now – learn more about what a day of Alireza’s life as a doctoral candidate looks like.

The TUM-GS Community only thrives on regular exchanges with you. Participate in our photo competition, “My Research Highlight 2024”, and celebrate your highlight together with our community.

Is this your first Christmas season in Germany? Then join our last [Welcome@TUM-GS Event](#) this year on 14 December and visit the historic center of Augsburg with one of the best Christmas markets in Bavaria.

In the Graduate Council section, we will announce this year’s TUM Supervisory Award winner, Professor Dr. Luise Pufahl.

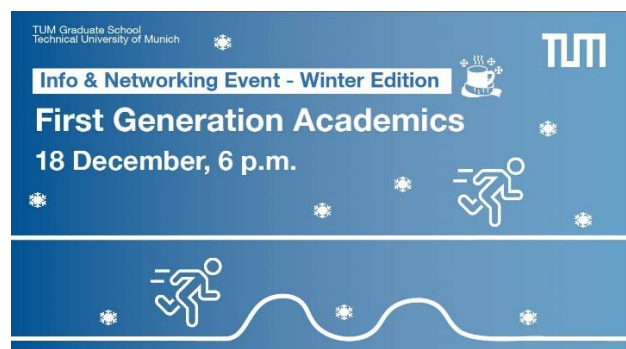
Going abroad during your doctorate has many advantages for your career and your personal development. Use the Christmas break and plan ahead for your international research or conference presentation in 2025. Everything you need to know about internationalization at TUM-GS is summarized in our [TUM-GS wiki page on internationalization support](#).

As always, we compiled further interesting events and calls for you in the [TUM & Co.](#) section.

TUM-GS News

First Generation Academics Info & Networking Event on 18 December

Navigating university life and pursuing a doctorate can be particularly challenging for First Generation Academics. Balancing different worlds and adapting to the explicit and implicit rules of academia can often feel overwhelming. To support you in these challenges, we are excited to invite you to our second networking event on 18 December at 6 p.m. The event will offer a diverse program to foster connection and provide support.



First Generation Academics – Winter Edition
(Photo: TUM-GS)

Highlights of the program include: Spotlight talks by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Betz (Professorship of Autonomous Vehicle Systems) and Prof. Dr. Wilhelm (Professorship of Computational Mass

Spectrometry) who share insights and valuable strategies to address challenges during the doctoral journey. The event also offers the opportunity to connect with TUM internal and external support networks, such as Arbeiterkind.de. Moreover, you'll get insights and practical tips from TUM doctoral candidates who are engaged in the topic of First Generation Academics and who have successfully navigated these challenges. We look forward to seeing you there!

[Register here](#)

Newest episode “Welcome to My Lab” – Video Series

In this seventh (and last) episode of our video series “Welcome to My Lab” Alireza Malek Mohammadi from the Institute for Cognitive Systems, TUM School of Computation, Information and Technology, shares his experiences as a doctoral candidate. We learn more about his research on how the brain processes auditory signals and his collaboration with his supervisor Professor Dr. Gordon Cheng. Moreover, he talks about his research stay at Georgetown University. Check out [his video and our former interviews](#) with inspiring doctoral candidates and learn more about their doctoral journey on our [website](#).

Please [contact us](#) if you also wish to share your experience and doctoral journey with our community. We are happy to hear from you!

[Learn more](#)

Photo Competition “Your Research Highlight 2024”

Looking back on 2024 with you – we would like to hear about your personal research highlight of the year. No matter what it was: A research experience abroad, a successful conference presentation, a huge milestone in your doctoral journey, or an important lesson learned? If you have a picture of it, please participate in our photo competition and share it with the TUM-GS community until 20 January 2025. Afterwards, you will be able to vote for the best picture online. The winner gets a gift card from the TUM Shop.

You will find more information and the terms and conditions for participation in the [news section on our website](#). We are looking forward to seeing your pictures!

[Sign up](#)



Welcome to My Lab – Ep. 7 with Alireza Malek Mohammadi
(Photo: TUM-GS)



Hands holding 2024 phrase in the sun
(Image: Adobe Stock)

Welcome@TUM-GS Program

Are you new to TUM and Germany? Is this your first Advent and Christmas Season in Germany? Are you ready to get into the Christmas spirit and learn more about old Christmas traditions in Germany? Then join us for our last Welcome@TUM-GS event in 2024, where we will enjoy a Christmas tour through the historic center of Augsburg on 14 December.

Have a look at our other Welcome@TUM-GS events in January and February 2025, too, and save your spot as soon as possible.



Christmas Market Augsburg
(Image: Adobe Stock/ ARochau)

[Register now](#)

Graduate Council

Prof. Dr. Luise Pufahl honored with the prestigious TUM Supervisory Award

The TUM Graduate Council (GC) is delighted to announce that Prof. Dr. Luise Pufahl from the TUM School of Computation, Information and Technology has been recognized with the TUM Supervisory Award for 2024, a distinguished honor that celebrates excellence in doctoral supervision. This accolade reflects her exceptional dedication to fostering a supportive and constructive mentoring environment for her doctoral candidates.

The TUM Supervisory Award is more than a recognition of outstanding supervisory achievements. It underscores the importance of cultivating a relationship between supervisors and doctoral candidates that is founded on trust, respect, and sincerity. By emphasizing these values, the award highlights the critical role such relationships play in advancing academic and professional growth.

At its core, the TUM Supervisory Award embodies the mission of the TUM Graduate Council, which is to uphold the highest standards in doctoral education. The rigorous selection process ensures that the award is granted to individuals who exemplify these principles, thereby setting a benchmark for supervisory excellence. Prof. Dr. Luise Pufahl's receipt of this award is a testament to her unwavering commitment to guiding and empowering her doctoral candidates. Her leadership and mentorship inspire not only her candidates but also the broader academic community at TUM.



f.l.t.r.: TUM Vice President Prof. Dr. Gerhard Kramer; Prof. Dr. Luise Pufahl; Luca Sacchetto; Leon Chryssos (2nd GC Speaker),
(Image: Astrid Eckert/TUM)

[Find out more](#)

Internationalization

Go abroad with TUM-GS

Dynamically changing research fields and globally intertwined working environments require future leaders to be equipped with international skills. The best way to prepare for this is to do an international research stay or participate in activities abroad. The TUM Graduate School internationalization support of up to 1,600/3,000 EUR for individual mobility enables you to further develop your international portfolio and expand your network globally. We collected detailed information about how to apply for our TUM-GS internationalization support in our [TUM-GS wiki on internationalization support](#). Please also remember to check out our extensive [FAQs](#) on internationalization support.



A globe on a desk
(Photo: Unsplash)

[Learn more](#)

TUM & Co.

Career Paths in Academia: Postdoc Opportunities and Funding Insights

On 13 December from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., all doctoral candidates are invited to the workshop “Career Paths in Academia: Postdoc Opportunities and Funding Insights.” During the workshop, Carla Herrmann from TUM ForTe will provide an overview of the largest funding organizations in Germany and the third-party funding system, as well as general insights into the career paths at a university. The session addresses early career researchers and doctoral candidates who want to gain insight into the system and prepare for their first grant application in Germany. The session will take place at the TUM Graduate School, Boltzmannstr. 17, Garching-Forschungszentrum. For more information and the link to the registration, click here: <https://www.gs.tum.de/gs/singleview/article/workshop-career-paths-in-academia-postdoc-opportunities-and-funding-insights/>

Thesis Talk with KHG TUM

The Katholische Hochschulgemeinde (KHG, Catholic University Community) of the TUM offers a “Thesis Talk” for master students and doctoral candidates on Friday, 13 December, from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. and on Friday, 24 January 2025, from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Karlstraße 32. In an informal atmosphere, you can exchange ideas on your thesis and support each other. The contact person for the event is Thomas Schindler (TSchindler@khg-tum.de). [Thesis Talk - KHG TUM | Die katholische Hochschulgemeinde der TU München](#)

Career Day Weihenstephan

On Tuesday, 10 December, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., you have the opportunity to boost your career at the Career Day in Weihenstephan. Take part in a professional application photo shoot, get a quick career counseling on your burning questions, or a live CV-check from experts. Registration is possible here: <https://www.community.tum.de/en/events/?start-date=10.12.2024&end-date=10.12.2024&q=>

Documentation is key! Survey on Electronic Research Documentation

Join the University Library in shaping the ideal solution for your documentation needs! The Research Data Support of TUM Library invites you to participate in the survey on electronic notebooks and lab books. Your insights and preferences are essential for enhancing the availability of these tools at

TUM. The survey takes just 5-10 minutes. Your voice is important – thank you for contributing! Link to the survey: <https://evasys.zv.tum.de/evasys/online.php?p=ELN2024>

kbo Innovation Award 2024/2025 - Mental Health and Social Psychiatry

Every two years, the kbo Innovation Award Mental Health | Social Psychiatry honors empirical and practice-oriented scientific work in the field of mental health and social psychiatry. This promotes practice-oriented research and science for the continuous improvement of care for people with mental illness. You can find more information about the application here: <https://kbo.de/kbo-innovationspreis> (link 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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