



# Navigating Your Research Stay

A Guide for Visiting Doctoral Researchers



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# TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT

**I. Welcome to the Technical University of Munich**

# TUM - The Entrepreneurial University

Since its inception by King Ludwig II in 1868, the Technical University of Munich has made profound and lasting contributions to the world of science and research. With 18 Nobel Prizes for TUM professors and alums since 1927, 24 Leibniz Prizes as of 2023, 212 ERC Grants awarded by the European Research Council, as well as 8 Alexander von Humboldt Professorships – Germany's most prestigious international research awards, TUM has firmly secured its place at the top of German and European universities. Not only does TUM regularly occupy top positions in national and international rankings like the Shanghai Ranking, THE, or QS, but being placed 13th in the 2023 Global University Employability Ranking, TUM graduates also have an outstanding reputation among employers and are in strong demand on the global job market.

Based on the strength of its research, TUM has secured the title "University of Excellence" for the third time in succession in 2019. That makes TUM the only technical university to place among the winners in every round since the inception of the federal and state-level excellence competition in 2006. Nowadays, with its new institutional strategy, the TUM Agenda 2030, TUM is positioning itself to cope with the fast-moving challenges of our modern world by implementing an update of TUM's structural DNA.

Emphasizing transdisciplinary innovations and interdisciplinary collaboration, TUM has reorganized its 15 academic departments to form a matrix organization with seven schools complemented by integrative research centers. Furthermore, Agenda 2030 is centered around developing talent and competencies on all levels. This is reflected in the realignment of engineering education to embrace the concept of human-centered engineering, integrated into massive restructuring efforts in the humanities and social sciences, and the establishment of interdisciplinary institutes for technology design, data science, and lifelong learning.



## Research at TUM - TUM Schools

Following our guiding principle of "Human-centered Engineering," TUM aligns the development of technical solutions towards the functionality for people, the values and needs of society, and the requirements of a sustainable future. Our matrix structure of TUM Schools and mission-driven Integrative Research Institutes creates an operatively agile and scientifically inspiring environment for interdisciplinary collaboration across TUM and beyond.

Our innovative structure with seven Schools forms the academic foundation of TUM and, while breaking away from mono-disciplinary faculties, covers the major domains of science:

**TUM School of Computation, Information and Technology (CIT)** combines our informatics, mathematics, electrical engineering, and information technology expertise to shape digital transformation. [www.cit.tum.de](http://www.cit.tum.de)

**TUM School of Engineering and Design (ED)** connects our technical, functional, and creative engineering skills and expertise to design solutions for a livable future. [www.ed.tum.de](http://www.ed.tum.de)

From molecules to global food supplies- our researchers at the **TUM School of Life Sciences (LS)** follow a holistic approach to examining the ecosystem of humans, animals, nature, and the climate. [www.ls.tum.de](http://www.ls.tum.de)

**TUM School of Management (MGT)** creates entrepreneurial solutions to global challenges by combining our knowledge of business and technological expertise. [www.mgt.tum.de](http://www.mgt.tum.de)

Our newest School, the **TUM School of Medicine and Health (MH)**, combines TUM's expertise in clinical and preclinical medicine and the sport and health sciences. [www.mh.tum.de](http://www.mh.tum.de)

**TUM School of Natural Sciences (NAT)** conducts cutting-edge research in chemistry, biosciences, and physics as we strive to understand the basis of our existence and universe. [www.nat.tum.de](http://www.nat.tum.de)

**TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology (SOT)** works at the interface of social sciences and technological expertise to strengthen our understanding of science and technology's social, political, ethical, and legal dimensions. [www.sot.tum.de](http://www.sot.tum.de)

## Research at TUM - Integrative Research Institutes

Situated at the interfaces between our Schools, Integrative Research Institutes (IRIs) tackle future-focused issues with far-reaching implications. They bring together approaches, tools, and expertise from research and teaching in various subjects, striving to find novel solutions to system-wide challenges:

- **TUM Campus Straubing for Biotechnology and Sustainability (CS)** [www.cs.tum.de](http://www.cs.tum.de)
- **Munich Data Science Institute (MDSI)** [www.mdsi.tum.de](http://www.mdsi.tum.de)
- **Munich Institute of Biomedical Engineering (MIBE)** [www.bioengineering.tum.de](http://www.bioengineering.tum.de)
- **Munich Institute of Integrated Materials, Energy and Process Engineering (MEP)** [www.mep.tum.de](http://www.mep.tum.de)
- **Munich Institute of Robotics and Machine Intelligence (MIRMI)** [www.mirmi.tum.de](http://www.mirmi.tum.de)







## Welcome to the TUM Graduate School

The Technical University of Munich (TUM) is firmly grounded in the belief that talent is our asset to cultivating academic excellence in doctoral education. TUM boasts a long and proud tradition of fostering world-class doctoral candidates committed to finding solutions to the diverse challenges of our times. Supported by researchers prominent in their fields, TUM invests substantial resources in helping early-stage scientists to work independently and kick-start their global careers.



The TUM Graduate School (TUM-GS) was founded in 2009 to support doctoral candidates in expanding both their networks and qualifications. TUM-GS helps to create a professional research environment in which doctoral candidates can exchange ideas with their peers in an interdisciplinary setting and enhance their academic profiles with transferable skills courses as well as with training in their fields of research.

Unlike "Ph.D. students" in structured programs, who are required to complete a set course load or collect ECTS credits, doctoral candidates at TUM are viewed as self-sufficient early-stage researchers who work independently on furthering their scientific ideas. Every doctoral candidate at TUM is integrated into a larger research and application context, which not only supports the growth of their personal networks but also enhances their overall pro-fessional and career opportunities.

This also applies to doctoral candidates from other universities (either in Germany or abroad) who wish to conduct a visiting research stay at TUM for a limited period under the supervision of their TUM host professor. Visiting doctoral researchers (or guest doctoral researchers) are not required to enroll in any particular program or participate in mandatory courses but may choose from a wide range of subject-specific training offered by the TUM research groups and graduate centers complementary to their individual research focus and research stay.





## TUM- At home in Bavaria, successful in the world

The Technical University of Munich (TUM) is deeply rooted in its Bavarian homeland, the metropolitan area of Munich with almost six Million inhabitants. Munich's reputation as one of Europe's economic powerhouses and a leading region for business and science helps TUM maintain strong connections to both industry and non-university research institutions. Through its successful industry partnerships with global companies, such as Siemens, BMW, and Allianz, as well as research initiatives with renowned institutions like the Max-Planck Society, Helmholtz Institutes, and Fraunhofer Society, doctoral candidates have access to both an expansive network and potential employers.

In addition to its economic strength, the Bavarian capital on the river Isar regularly ranks at the top of the list for quality of life. A strong artistic and cultural identity and enviable leisure opportunities complement the city's unique flair. TUM's main campus, located in the center of Munich, is surrounded by world-famous art galleries like the Pinakotheken, the Museum Brandhorst and the Deutsches Museum. Our campus in Freising, founded in 1040, is home to the Weihestephaner Beer and the oldest brewery in the world!





### An International Hub in the Heart of Bavaria

TUM is an international university attractive to the strongest applicants from around the globe. Almost one-third of doctoral candidates at TUM come from outside of Germany, mainly from non-EU countries. This diversity makes TUM an inspiring place: the university's extensive international community provides an invaluable jumping-off point for connecting with elite science communities across the globe.

While multiculturalism in Munich abounds, the city is also shaped by its proud Bavarian tradition. The city hosts numerous significant festivals yearly, such as the world-famous Oktoberfest, spring and summer festivals, Christmas markets, and music and film festivals. In addition, sports fans will feel right at home with one of the world's most famous soccer clubs, FC Bayern München.

In addition to the benefits of the metropolitan area and its surrounding region, Munich's central location in the heart of Europe makes TUM an excellent place for promoting and engaging in international collaborations and partnerships, both within Europe and beyond. Munich's international airport, with its flights to almost every major city worldwide, is just an S-Bahn ride away!



# TUM in Munich

## Munich Downtown Campus

TUM's historical home site is in Munich's Maxvorstadt district, beautifully located next to the world-famous Pinakotheken art museums and just around the corner from the Munich city center and the central train station. No longer the largest TUM campus, the Munich Downtown Campus- fondly known within the TUM community as the "Stammgelände" (origin or root campus), is still the base of the TUM Board of Management and various central administration and service units, such as the Global & Alumni Office, Office for Research and Innovation, Diversity & Equal Opportunities and the TUM Center for Study and Teaching. The importance of the Munich Downtown Campus is also reflected in TUM's official address: Arcisstraße 21, 80333 Munich, Germany.

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#### TIP

##### PANORAMA ROOFDECK AT VORHOELZER FORUM

AT TUM'S MAIN CAMPUS, YOU CAN TAKE IN ONE OF THE BEST VIEWS OF THE CITY FROM THE ROOF DECK OF THE ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT'S VORHOELZER FORUM. MEET UP WITH COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS OVER A COFFEE AND ENJOY THE AWESOME MUNICH PANORAMA, COMPLETE WITH CLOSE-UPS OF THE FRAUENKIRCHE, NEARBY KÖNIGSPLATZ, AND MORE. ON A CLEAR DAY, YOU CAN SEE AS FAR AS THE ALPS!

Besides our "Stammgelände" in Munich's city center, TUM has two other major locations in Munich. Our Sports and Health Science Campus at the Olympic Park, on the site of the 1972 Olympic Games, is one of the most modern facilities for health and sports science in Europe.

The world-renowned Klinikum Rechts der Isar is TUM's university hospital, covering the entire spectrum of modern medicine. Thanks to the close connection between patient care and research, patients are the early beneficiaries of new scientific insights. Together with the former Department of Medicine (now part of our latest School, the TUM School of Medicine and Health), it is close to the city center on the right-hand side of the river Isar (hence "rechts," on the right in German) between Max-Weber-Platz and Prinzregentenplatz.



## Garching and Freising

With its research center in Garching bei München and the TUM School of Life Sciences Weihenstephan in Freising, TUM has two major sites outside Munich. That is why many students, doctoral candidates, researchers, and staff live in Freising, Garching, and other communities to the north of Munich. Even if they are not huge metropolises, the cities north of Munich offer a high quality of life with outstanding transit connections to the metropolis on the Isar.

### Garching bei München

In recent decades, a tranquil Bavarian village has become the booming small town of Garching with around 19,000 inhabitants. With its research center in Garching, the TUM has played no small part. Near the Isar, Garching combines a rural idyll and a dynamic economy. Many large companies have settled in the Hochbrück district while new residential areas are being created in open spaces in the shortest possible time.

To account for this dynamic, Garching got its subway station a few years ago, allowing for an excellent connection to Munich city center by both motorway and subway. The underground line U6 takes you to the Garching Research Center within a few minutes and offers a quick connection to the English Garden and Marienplatz in Munich's city center.



#### IMPORTANT

PLEASE DO NOT CONFUSE GARCHING BEI MÜNCHEN WITH GARCHING AN DER ALZ. GARCHING AN DER ALZ IS ANOTHER BAVARIAN COMMUNITY BELONGING TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT OF ALTÖTTING, ROUGHLY 100 KM EAST OF MUNICH!

The Campus Garching Research Center ("Garching-Forschungszentrum") north of Garching is TUM's natural science and engineering center with significant research and teaching facilities of the TUM School of Computation, Information and Technology (CIT), TUM School of Engineering and Design (ED) and the TUM School of Natural Sciences (NAT). With more than 28,000 students, researchers, and staff, Garching-Forschungszentrum is TUM's largest campus and one of Germany's largest science, research, and teaching centers.



## Garching and Freising

Besides TUM, numerous renowned institutes and companies, such as facilities of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) in Munich, institutes of the Max Planck Society, the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and the European Southern Observatory (ESO) - the leading intergovernmental organization for astronomy in Europe and the most productive astronomical observatory in the world, are also located here. Visible signs of science on campus are, in addition to the diverse buildings, the over 50m high weather tower at the campus entrance with its glowing TUM logo and TUM's research neutron source Heinz-Maier-Leibnitz (FRM II), one of the most potent and advanced neutron sources in the world.

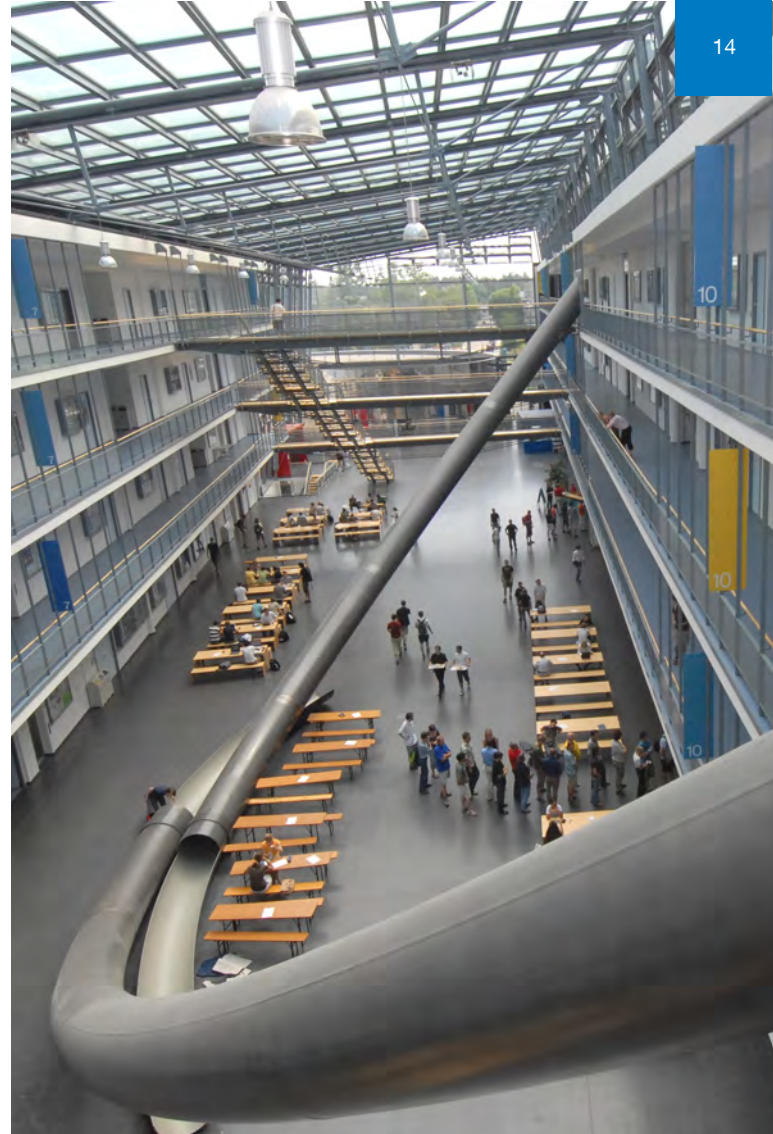
Garching-Forschungszentrum is also the home of the TUM Graduate School Management Office, conveniently located at Boltzmannstraße 17, next to the TUM School of Engineering and Design and close to the U6 underground station.

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#### TIP

##### **PARABOLIC SLIDE AT CIT, BOLTZMANNSTR. 3**

THE TWO PARABOLIC BRANCHES GLIDE DOWN FROM A HEIGHT OF 13 METERS INTO THE BUSTLING STUDENT-FILLED ATRIUM AT THE SCHOOL OF COMPUTATION, INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN GARCHING. SEE IF YOU CAN CRACK THE FORMULA FOR ITS UNIQUE CONSTRUCTION WHILE KICKING YOUR FEET UP FOR A RIDE!



## Garching and Freising

### Freising

For centuries, Freising was one of the political centers of the region due to its diocese. Dating back to the Stone Age, present-day Freising, with over 1,200 years of history, is widely known for its picturesque old town between Cathedral Hill and Weihestephan Hill. Today, the rapidly growing city of 50,000 is of supraregional importance, especially as the location of the Munich Airport. Munich's city center can be reached via the nearby motorway in around 30 minutes by regional express or 45 minutes by the S-Bahn city train.

Weihestephan is a hill to the west of the Freising city center where, as legend has it, St Corbinian, Freising's first bishop and founder of the diocese, awakened a spring out of a rock by striking it with his staff. Being the home of our TUM School of Life Sciences with some 70 professors, the Weihestephan district of Freising is an essential mark on the national and international research landscape.

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#### TIP

##### **BRÄUSTÜBERL WEIHENSTEPHAN**

FOR CENTURIES, DELICIOUS GOLDEN BEER HAS FLOWN FROM THE TAPS OF THE WEIHENSTEPHAN STATE BREWERY. HERE, STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS ENJOY MEETING UP UNDER THE RELAXING SHADE OF THE CHESTNUT TREES TO ENJOY AN AWARD-WINNING WHEAT BEER AND OTHER BAVARIAN SPECIALTIES SUCH AS OBAZDA AND BREZN.

In the spirit of the "One Health" idea, the TUM School of Life Sciences uniquely combines the necessary vital competencies to explore the fundamentals of our lives: from molecules to cellular systems to plant and animal organisms, from soil to ecosystems, from food to nutritional medicine, from biogenic raw materials to biotechnology – while making use of the benefits of artificial intelligence.

An exceptional feature is the university's own research brewery, Weihestephan, where researchers from the TUM Chair of Brewing and Beverage Technology have developed beers such as Bavaria Pale Ale, White Hoplosion, or Fresh Hop Finest. Here, in one of the most modern research breweries in the world, students are trained as brewing and food technologists, bioprocess technicians, and master brewers.





## Straubing

### **TUM Campus Straubing for Biotechnology and Sustainability**

Besides Munich, Freising, and Garching, TUM has another campus in Bavaria – the TUM Campus Straubing for Biotechnology and Sustainability in the historic city of Straubing, roughly 140 km northeast of Munich.

Beautifully located on the banks of the Danube, Straubing has been a popular place to live since the Stone Age. Present-day Straubing dates back to the 13th century when Straubing became an essential residence for the powerful noble family Wittelsbach, who subsequently provided the rulers of Bavaria until the abolition of the monarchy in 1918.

Officially established in October 2017, the TUM Campus Straubing is a so-called Integrative Research Center of the TUM, bringing together interdisciplinary research and development of sustainable technologies and their economic implementation. In close collaboration with the University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, TUM Campus Straubing has developed into a stronghold for interdisciplinary research with 25+ chairs and professorships in the areas of renewable raw materials, biotechnology, and bioeconomy. Being a moderate-sized city with roughly 50,000 residents, Straubing is more relaxed than the Greater Munich Area.



# Heilbronn

## TUM Campus Heilbronn

The Technical University of Munich is deeply rooted in our homeland, Bavaria. However, in pursuit of the best possible study and research resources and facilities, TUM expanded to Heilbronn, a vibrant city with around 130,000 residents in the neighboring federal state of Baden Württemberg, roughly 50 km north of Stuttgart.

Combining the expertise of researchers and professors from TUM's School of Management and School of Computation, Information and Technology, our newest campus focuses on interdisciplinary research in the areas of digital transformation, information engineering, and family businesses:

- The Center for Digital Transformation addresses the issues of digitalization and its challenges as well as opportunities.
- Succession, strategy, innovation, and governance in family businesses are the focus areas of the Global Center for Family Enterprise.

Being relatively moderate in size with less than 1,000 students and researchers, TUM Campus Heilbronn is shaped by its familiar atmosphere, top-notch facilities, and excellent individual support infrastructure. Located on the banks of the river Neckar, Heilbronn, the wine-growing capital of Württemberg (famous for its red wine), not only offers stunning landscapes and great leisure activities but is also characterized by the dynamic and innovative spirit of its many small and medium-sized family enterprises.







A group of students are seated at a long table in a bright, modern classroom or library. They are focused on their work, looking at papers and laptops. The students are diverse in age and appearance. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the room and a window. A semi-transparent grey banner with an orange square on the left side is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing the text 'II. Admission as Guest Doctoral Candidate'.

## **II. Admission as Guest Doctoral Candidate**



## Application and Admission

TUM with the TUM Graduate School (TUM-GS) offers selected exchange programs for doctoral candidates with key international university partners. If you are not based with one of these institutions, you are welcome, as the majority of guest doctoral candidates, to organize your research stay by yourself. To do so, you must contact a suitable TUM professor to inquire whether he/she will be willing to host you at his/her chair/research group and supervise your research during your time with us at the TUM.

Guest or visiting doctoral candidates do not need to apply for formal doctoral admission at TUM, including recognition of their foreign university degree, but may start their research period at TUM any time after they have found a hosting professor. Details like the guest research's start date, duration, or content will be discussed directly between the guest doctoral candidate and their host professor.



## Finding and Contacting a Supervisor

Every guest doctoral candidate at TUM has a supervisor who supports them throughout their research stay. Therefore, finding a supervisor to guide you during your visit is the most critical step in applying for a guest doctorate at TUM.

Ideally, you should begin your search for a supervisor by reaching out to existing contacts of your home doctoral supervisor or contacts whom you may have met at conferences, symposia, or in any other international academic context.

If you do not have any existing connections to TUM professors, you may wish to follow the guidance and tips provided here:

- Start on the website of the respective TUM School in your field of research, where you will find an overview of all chairs, research groups, and professors and their respective publications and areas of expertise.
- Search for professors with a research focus compatible with your education, work experience, and research interests.

You can contact a professor anytime, as there are no application deadlines.

Once you have identified one or more potential supervisors, you should contact them directly to inquire about their interest in hosting you during a research visit. Clear and concise communication is recommended!

Besides sending your academic transcripts and CV, we recommend you provide a proposal for your intended guest research stay and (if applicable) abstracts of your publications and/or master's thesis.



### TIP

OUR TUM SCHOOLS ARE HIGHLY INTERDISCIPLINARY, AND MANY TOPICS AND THEMES ARE COVERED BY SEVERAL TUM SCHOOLS FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES AND RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES. THEREFORE, PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT ONGOING RESEARCH IN DIFFERENT TUM SCHOOLS.







### III. Before You Travel to Germany



## Visa

In general, non-German citizens require a visa for their stay in Germany. EU member states and citizens of countries with special agreements with Germany are the exception. Check with the Federal Foreign Office of Germany for the status of your home country/region.

If you require a visa to enter Germany, please arrange an appointment at the relevant German embassy/consulate as soon as possible, as many German diplomatic missions have long waiting periods for visa appointments. Depending on the length of your intended research stay, a Schengen visa or a visa for researchers (§18d Residence Act) will usually be issued.

Your hosting TUM professor will usually provide you with the following documents:

- A Hosting Agreement is needed for the Visa for researchers (§18d residence act), which needs to be signed by both you and your host supervisor, and
- An Invitation Letter specifying the details of your intended guest research stay, research period, and funding

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#### PLEASE NOTE

FOR A LONGER RESEARCH STAY (90 DAYS OR LONGER), PLEASE DO NOT APPLY FOR A TOURIST VISA TO ENTER GERMANY! TOURIST VISAS CANNOT BE CHANGED INTO RESIDENCE PERMITS APPLICABLE FOR YOUR RESEARCH STAY IN GERMANY, AND YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AGAIN AND APPLY FOR A SUITABLE VISA AGAIN IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY/COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE.

Visa approval is generally contingent on your ability to show sufficient funds to support your life in Munich (i.e., financing for the whole period of your research stay). Since visas (and consequent residence permits for extended stays) are always bound to a specific purpose, providing the German diplomatic mission with information on your particular activity in Germany is essential.

Please get in touch with your supervisor to receive the necessary documents for your visa application. The TUM-GS cannot issue invitation letters, hosting agreements, or admission confirmations.

It is important to note that the processes relating to visa applications often take a lot of time. We therefore strongly recommend taking care of the appointments and all necessary documents well in advance.

## REST Directive EU

Visiting doctoral researchers who meet the requirements for short-term mobility according to the REST Directive (Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and the Council) need to be registered at the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees by the TUM-GS Welcome Office. Please get in touch with the TUM-GS Welcome Office in case:

- you are not an EU-national, and
- you already have a residence permit for research purposes in an EU country (except Denmark and Ireland) and
- your planned research stay at TUM will be less than 180 days for a maximum of 360 days. Please check with the German Federal Foreign Office for the status of your home country.

### Making appointments for a residence permit application

All non-EU/EEA nationals must apply for a residence permit ("Aufenthaltserlaubnis") at the local Foreigners Registration Authority ("Ausländerbehörde") responsible for their respective area of residence no later than 90 days after arrival.

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#### PLEASE NOTE

THE PROCESSES RELATING TO YOUR RESIDENCE PERMIT (AS WELL AS FUTURE EXTENSIONS!) OFTEN TAKE A LOT OF TIME. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU ARRANGE FURTHER APPOINTMENTS AND TAKE CARE OF NECESSARY DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING CERTIFIED COPIES, WELL IN ADVANCE. PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE OF THE FOREIGNERS' OFFICE RELEVANT FOR YOUR RESIDENCE TO CLARIFY THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE ALREADY BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL!



## Health Insurance

All persons are legally obligated to provide valid health insurance for the complete duration of their stay in Germany. This means that regardless of the length of your intended research stay, all visiting doctoral candidates (and, if applicable, accompanying family members) must have valid health insurance for the entire duration of their stay in Germany.

Please note that though travel health insurance is sufficient for visa application purposes, it only covers cases of illness during the journey and does not offer adequate insurance coverage for your research at TUM. Hence, all international visiting doctoral candidates are advised to inform themselves about valid health insurance before traveling to Germany.

If you receive health insurance as part of your scholarship, signing up for your long-term health insurance may be possible immediately. If you are being financed through a scholarship that does not include insurance, you must acquire health insurance on your own. This means deciding on a health insurance provider and paying a monthly fee. Some companies specifically specialize in providing health insurance to international visiting researchers.

Additional information on health insurance options can be found on the TUM-GS website. It is essential to look into the extent of your coverage ahead of time and ensure that any pre-existing conditions or pregnancy are sufficiently covered. The same also applies to dental care.

Citizens of a member state of the European Union and the EEA countries can typically continue to utilize the health insurance of their home country in Germany or apply for cost reimbursement from their insurance provider. If this should apply to you, please check with your home health insurance provider if your health insurance will continue to be valid in Germany. An overview of the existing social security agreements/treaties of Germany with other countries can be found on the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs website.

If the health insurance of the home country is not valid in Germany, the visiting doctoral candidate must contract new health insurance for the complete duration of the doctorate. A valid health insurance must also be provided with the application for the residence permit at the Foreigners Registration Authority within 90 days after your arrival in Germany.



## Accommodation

Munich is a great place to live, ensuring an excellent quality of life with world-class health care, culture, and recreational infrastructure, a secure and stable environment, excellent education facilities, family-friendly infrastructure, and abundant beautiful natural resources. These factors contribute to the intense competition for affordable housing in the metropolitan region. Offers for furnished apartments are especially in high demand and very expensive. Therefore, we highly recommend you start searching for affordable accommodation in advance!

Unlike in many other countries, universities in Germany usually do not have their student dormitories. In Munich, most student dormitories are run by the Munich Student Union and are not available to visiting doctoral candidates. Therefore, visiting doctoral candidates usually have to look for accommodation in the free housing market.

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#### PLEASE NOTE

OUR WELCOME OFFICE DOES NOT PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION SERVICE BUT OFFERS EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ON HOW TO FIND ACCOMMODATION. PLEASE CONTACT US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT [WELCOMEOFFICE@GS.TUM.DE](mailto:WELCOMEOFFICE@GS.TUM.DE).



## Housing Tips

Be aware that TUM has different locations in the Greater Munich Area and the cities of Straubing and Heilbronn. Therefore, your research location at TUM is critical to your housing search!

TUM has three primary campuses in the Greater Munich Area, two of which are located outside of Munich's city center:

For a doctorate at TUM School of Life Sciences Weihenstephan, consider looking for an apartment in the City of Freising and its surroundings (approximately 30 km north of Munich). Many smaller cities to the north and north-east of Freising offer cheaper accommodation options and allow for easy daily commutes via train.

For a doctorate at the Garching campus, consider searching in the north/northeast of Munich and the smaller villages and communities to the northeast/east of Munich.

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#### BEWARE OF FRAUD!

NEVER WIRE SECURITY DEPOSITS OR THE FIRST MONTH'S RENT IN ADVANCE FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY UNLESS YOU ARE COMPLETELY SURE THAT THE ROOM YOU ARE RENTING EXISTS AND HAS BEEN RENTED TO YOU! IN CASE OF DOUBT, PLEASE CONTACT THE TUM-GS WELCOME OFFICE.

If your TUM professor is a faculty member of the TUM Campus Straubing for Biotechnology and Sustainability, please double-check the location of your research group. If it is located in the City of Straubing (over 140 km to the northeast of Munich!), look for an apartment in Straubing directly. The same applies to our research groups based at the TUM Campus Heilbronn in the federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. In this case, look for apartments in the City of Heilbronn and its surroundings.



## Coming with Family

Munich is a great place for families due to its child-friendly infrastructure, excellent education and schooling system, and exciting leisure activities for children of all ages. However, as for accommodation, being a top destination comes with a downside, as daycare, kindergarten, and preschool spots for toddlers and younger children are in high demand and difficult to find. On the other hand, being popular with expats and international researchers, Munich has various private international kindergartens, childcare institutions, and international schools.

At TUM, we strive to help you balance family, career, and research. TUM members can take advantage of childcare facilities right on or close to campus at the TUM locations in Munich, Garching, and Freising-Weihenstephan. In addition to this regular childcare, flexible childcare is available through babysitters and day nannies. The Schools have set up parent-child/family rooms at different university locations to be used by TUM members who want or need to care for their children themselves in case of an emergency. Some of these rooms also offer hourly, flexible childcare, for example, during off-peak hours.

For more information, please get in touch with the **TUM Family Service**.









## **IV. After You Arrive in Germany**







## Registering Your Address

Everyone who stays in Germany for more than 90 days must register their address with the local administration (Bürgerbüro/Citizen's Office) within the first two weeks of arrival. The local administration generally requires the following:

- A valid passport or ID (if you are an EU national)
- Your rental contract
- A filled-out registration form (available at the citizens' office)
- The landlord's confirmation  
("Wohnungsgeberbestätigung zur Vorlage bei der Meldebehörde")



### PLEASE NOTE

PLEASE INFORM YOURSELF PROMPTLY IF YOU HAVE TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT ONLINE TO REGISTER YOUR ADDRESS.

**The most important Citizens' Offices for TUM candidates are:**

#### **For addresses in the City of Munich:**

Kreisverwaltungsreferat München  
(Regional Administrative Office)  
Citizens' Office [www.kvr-muenchen.de](http://www.kvr-muenchen.de)  
Ruppertstr. 19, 80337 München

#### **For addresses in Freising:**

Stadtverwaltung Freising (City Administration)  
Citizens' Office [www.freising.de/rathaus/buergerbuero](http://www.freising.de/rathaus/buergerbuero)  
Obere Hauptstr. 2, 25354 Freising

#### **For addresses in Garching:**

Stadtverwaltung Garching (City Administration)  
Registration Office [www.garching.de](http://www.garching.de)  
Rathausplatz 3, 85748 Garching

Please note that many smaller towns have their own registration offices.

If you are unsure about where to register your address, please get in touch with the TUM-GS Welcome Office at [welcomeoffice@gs.tum.de](mailto:welcomeoffice@gs.tum.de).

## Residence Permit

Citizens from non-EU/EEA countries must apply for a residence permit (“Aufenthaltslaubnis”) at the local Foreigners Registration Authority (“Ausländerbehörde”) responsible for their respective area of residence (e.g., Munich Foreigners Office KVR or the District Office of Munich/Garching or Freising) within 90 days after arrival. This also applies to citizens of non-EU/EEA member countries who do not need a visa to enter Germany.

The permit is always bound to the specific purpose of your stay, such as employment or research. In other words, if you are doing your research stay at TUM, your residence permit is bound to your TUM research stay. It loses its validity with the conclusion of your research stay, and you will be required to leave Germany. If you wish to extend your research stay, you must also extend your residence permit. Please promptly apply for an extension with the responsible Foreigners' Office before your residence permit expires. The validity of your residence permit is usually linked to your proof of sufficient funding (e.g., scholarship contract).

Please note that permit procedures might take a long time. Therefore, contacting the Foreigners' Office relevant to your residence is highly recommended to clarify the application procedure in advance and make an appointment as early as possible.

In case of scholarship, e.g., from your home country, or the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD, your residence permit is usually tied to the duration of your scholarship. This means that with a scholarship period of, e.g., six months, you will only receive a residence permit for six months.

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#### EXTENDING YOUR RESIDENCE PERMIT

BE SURE TO APPLY FOR AN EXTENSION TO YOUR RESIDENCE PERMIT PROMPTLY (BEFORE IT EXPIRES).



## Opening a Bank Account

For a more extended stay, you might need a German bank account. Your ID/passport, visa/residence permit, and registration certificate will be required. If you do not speak German, you should schedule an appointment with an English-speaking bank representative or ask a German-speaking colleague for support to ensure that you always understand the terms of your account. Generally, to open a bank account, you will need the following documents:

- Copy of your residence registration (“Anmeldebestätigung”)
- Your passport/ID if you are an EU national
- Confirmation of your monthly income (e.g. your scholarship contract)

The most common account in Germany is the so-called Giro account (“Girokonto”), similar to a current account or checking account. After you have opened a bank account, your bank will issue you a card called “EC-Karte.”

The EC-Karte is the most common card payment method in Germany, which you can also use to get cash from the automatic teller machines. Although card payment with the EC-Karte has become widely accepted in Germany, some smaller shops and restaurants may only accept cash payments. Therefore, it is recommended to always carry some cash with you.

Credit cards such as Visa are uncommon in Germany, and many smaller shops, supermarkets, restaurants, vending machines, etc., do not allow credit card payments.



### INFO

PLEASE NOTE THAT DIFFERENT BANKS HAVE DIFFERENT CONDITIONS AND ACCOUNT FEES. THEREFORE, COMPARING DIFFERENT BANKS AND THEIR CONDITIONS ONLINE IS ADVISABLE BEFORE OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT.

## Liability Insurance

In terms of liability, a distinction is drawn between doctoral candidates who are employed by TUM and those who are not. In the case of gross negligence, TUM may assume liability for TUM employees during their work within the frame of their employment. However, all claims must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

No liability is assumed for doctoral candidates not employed by TUM, as is commonly the case with visiting doctoral researchers. As a result, these candidates are strongly urged to take out private liability insurance. It should also be clarified with the insurance provider ahead of time whether there is a guarantee of assumption of liability in the event of damage or losses occurring during lab activities. If not, taking out supplementary private lab liability insurance is advisable.





## Medical Care

If in need of a physician (in non-life threatening situations), please get in touch with a general practitioner (GP), "Hausarzt" in German. There are plenty of GP practices across the city, and you can choose your physician. Most practices require patients to make appointments before treatments to avoid long waiting times. The same rule applies to gynecologists, orthopedists, and the like. However, if you require the attention of a specialist (e.g., a radiologist), you will usually need a referral from your GP, as most specialist doctors' practices do not allow for direct appointments.

### Medical on-call practices

Medical on-call practices, or "Ärztlicher Bereitschaftsdienst" in German, offer treatment in urgent but not life-threatening medical situations on weekends and evenings when GP practices are closed. Usually, they do not require any appointments. In non-life-threatening situations, you may call the nationwide central number for medical on-call practices: 116 117.

### Few selected medical on-call practices in Munich:

- Allgemeine Ärztliche Bereitschaftspraxis am Klinikum Schwabing (Medical on-call practice at Schwabing Hospital), northern Munich:  
Kölner Platz 1, 80804 Munich
- Allgemeine Ärztliche KVB-Bereitschaftspraxis am Klinikum Harlaching (Medical on-call practice at Harlaching Hospital), south-eastern Munich:  
Sanatoriumsplatz 2, 81545 Munich
- Bereitschaftspraxis Elisenhof (Medical on-call practice offered by Munich physicians), next to Munich central train station:  
Prielmayerstr. 3, 80335 Munich

## Medication

In Germany, pharmaceutical regulations are strict, and you might need a prescription from a doctor for a drug you get over the counter in your home country/current residence. Therefore, if relevant, visiting doctoral candidates are strongly encouraged to bring sufficient prescription medicine and documentation for their short-term research stay or the first few weeks in Munich. Medication can be purchased at pharmacies ("Apotheke"). Many non-prescription medicines like cough drops or nose sprays, natural remedies, and dietary supplements can also be bought at drug stores.

Although the regular opening hours for pharmacies vary, they are closed after 8 p.m. and on Sundays and public holidays. However, a few on-call pharmacies are always open after regular work hours and on weekends.



## Emergency Numbers

Calling directives (calling from outside Germany): dial 0049 before the following numbers:

- **Police 110**
- **Fire Brigade 112**
- **Emergency doctor 112**
  
- Poison Specialists 112
- Emergency help (drugs) 089-724 2003
- Emergency dental help 089-72330-93 or -94
  
- Pediatric emergency doctor 112
- Pediatric emergency physicians (medical on-call practice): Elisenstr. 3, Bereitschaftspraxis Elisenhof (next to the Munich Central Train Station)

**When calling an emergency number, please be prepared to answer the following questions:**

- ✓ Who is calling (your name and phone number)
- ✓ What happened/what kind of injuries
- ✓ How many people are involved, injured or sick (in case of children, how old is the child)
- ✓ Where is your exact location/location of the emergency (address)



## V. Your TUM Experience



# Your TUM Experience

## Enrollment as a guest doctoral student

Doctoral candidates from selected strategic/flagship international TUM partner universities and guest doctoral candidates in one of our officially sponsored TUM-GS exchange programs (e.g., Research Exchange or Joint Supervision Programs) who plan to do a visiting research stay of three months or longer may enroll as guest/visiting doctoral students at TUM. Enrollment as a guest doctoral student ("Gastimmatrikulation als Promotionsstudierende") offers the possibility of benefiting from student discounts and obtaining a reduced public transport ticket.

## Your Workplace at TUM

If your workplace is at a TUM chair/research group, you will be introduced to relevant administrative processes (e.g., the premises, contact persons, procedure in the event of illness, useful TUM websites, etc.) by your host supervisor. Before your arrival, please also discuss with your host professor whether you require any specific work equipment (including PC/laptop, software licenses, telephone, office workplace, office keys, office supplies) and/or laboratory access.

## User Agreement

The User Agreement ("Benutzungsvereinbarung") assures the unrestricted use of TUM facilities and equipment. It is necessary if you do not wish to/cannot enroll as a guest doctoral student. It is an agreement signed by you and your TUM host and must be valid for the entire duration of your research stay.

## TUM Account & TUM Card

If you do not wish to/cannot enroll as a guest doctoral student, consider obtaining a TUM GuestCard. The TUM GuestCard serves as ID, library card, and payment card for the student canteen ("Mensa") and StuCafés of the Munich Student Union, as they do not accept payments in cash. To apply for a TUM GuestCard, you must first have a valid TUM guest account with a TUM guest ID. Please contact the guest administration ("Gästeverwalter\*in") at your hosting chair/research group. They will create a guest account in TUMonline for you. TUMonline is our university's campus management system. In case of enrollment as a guest doctoral student, you will automatically obtain a TUM ID and a StudentCard that includes the same functions as the GuestCard. Therefore, there is no need to apply for a GuestCard in case of enrollment.

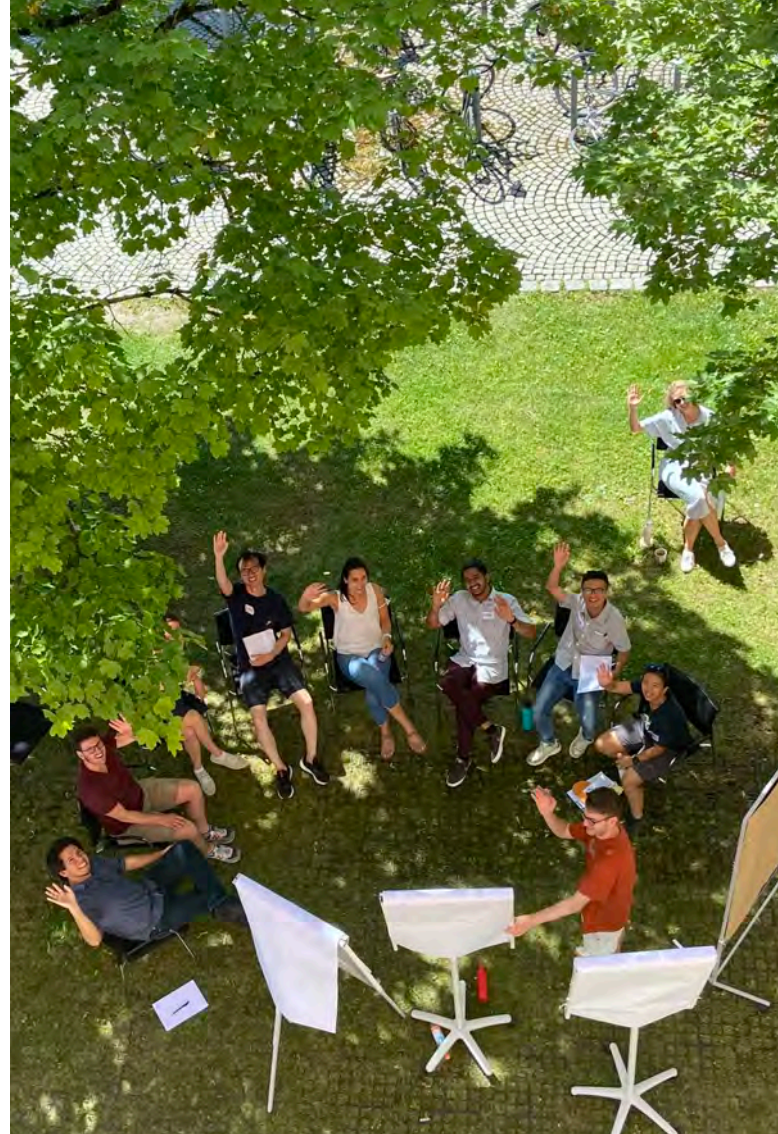
## Your TUM Experience

### Course Offer at the Graduate Center/TUM Graduate School

The TUM Graduate School, with its Graduate Centers, offers a wide range of subject-specific and transferable skills training throughout the year. Ask the Graduate Center of your TUM School about offers in subject-specific/subject-related courses available to guest doctoral researchers. Please get in touch with the TUM-GS Qualification Program Team at [courses@gs.tum.de](mailto:courses@gs.tum.de) if you are interested in participating in one of our transferable skills training courses.

### TUM Language Center

Have you ever heard of tandem learning? Tandem learning is a language learning method that enables two people with different mother tongues to learn the other's language autonomously and collaboratively. If you are interested in improving your German and, at the same time, supporting another TUM student, staff, or researcher in learning your home language, sign up for the tandem learning offer of the TUM Language Center. Language courses and other offerings of the TUM Language Center are available to visiting doctoral researchers who are enrolled as visiting doctoral students. For more information, please visit <https://www.sprachenzentrum.tum.de/en/sprachenzentrum/homepage/>.



# Your TUM Experience

## University Library

Visiting doctoral candidates have access to the vast services and resources of the TUM University library (<https://www.ub.tum.de/en>). In addition to an extensive range of (e-) literature, journals, and other media, it also offers library tours and various training courses like database search strategies, reference management, how to cite right, etc. The TUM University library and its nine branch libraries also offer fully equipped workplaces that doctoral candidates can use.

Access to the university library is possible with your TUM StudentCard. You must obtain a library card if you are not enrolled as a visiting doctoral student. To do so, visit one of the branch libraries and register with the following documents:

- your ID (for EU citizens) or passport, and
- a declaration of liability from your host professor and
- your TUM GuestCard (if applicable).

## TUM IT Support

The TUM IT Support is the first point of contact for all TUM members for questions and problems related to the university's centralized IT services and applications. The IT Support website (<https://www.it.tum.de/en/home/>) provides handy information and tutorials for setting up your TUM account, purchasing IT products and services, using Moodle, and much more.

## eduroam

eduroam is an international initiative of higher education institutions to provide a uniform way for academics and students to connect to the internet via WLAN/Wi-Fi, even while traveling. In Munich, eduroam can be used at university locations (e.g., TUM, LMU) and several public spaces in the city center, e.g., central train station or Marienplatz. You can register with your 7-digit TUM ID (e.g., tu24tum) and @eduroam.mwn.de.

Further information on eduroam and how to register can be found at <https://www.it.tum.de/eduroam/>.



## Your TUM Experience

### Campus life

All TUM campuses have various leisure time possibilities, including different orchestras, choirs and bands, various student initiatives/research groups, etc. The main TUM website (<https://www.tum.de/en/community/campus-life>) provides further information on this topic. A great way to network and to get/stay connected with your fellow TUM researchers, staff, students, and alums is by joining the TUM Community (<https://www.community.tum.de/en/>).

### Central University Sports

TUM students, researchers, and staff have access to the vast sports program offered by Central University Sports (ZHS). Located on the former training grounds of the 1972 Olympic Games in the Munich Olympic Park, the ZHS provides a wide range of courses in both popular and competitive sports for a small fee each semester. For more information, please visit <https://www.zhs-muenchen.de/en/zhs/home/>.



#### PLEASE NOTE

TUM CAMPUS STRAUBING AND TUM CAMPUS HEILBRONN HAVE THEIR OWN SERVICES AND OFFERS. PLEASE INFORM YOURSELF ABOUT CAMPUS LIFE ON THE RESPECTIVE WEBSITES.

### Engage in the TUM Graduate Council

The TUM Graduate Council is the official representative body of all doctoral candidates at TUM. It consists of elected doctoral representatives from all our Graduate Centers and communicates the opinion of and acts on behalf of all TUM doctoral candidates in university politics and beyond.

Contact our doctoral representatives if you are interested in participating in Graduate Council activities during your research period at the TUM. For instance, the Graduate Council is always looking for orga team members for its legendary doctoral networking event, TUMblue, which takes place annually in the summer months. Please visit the official website at <https://gc.gs.tum.de/>.









## **VI. Work Hard, Play Hard**



## Day Trips

As a doctoral candidate, your overall success is based on more than just academic endeavors and professional accomplishments. At TUM, we recognize the importance of helping you maintain a healthy work-life balance with time and energy for work and play. Lucky you- for there are countless recreational, cultural, and leisure opportunities near our TUM campuses. With an abundance of well-preserved medieval cities and picturesque villages, beautiful lakes and rivers, storybook castles, world-famous museums, and the Alps, the Free State of Bavaria is Germany's number one destination for locals and visitors. Below are a few ideas for day trips during your time at TUM:

### Kloster Andechs

The Benedictine monastery Kloster Andechs has been a top pilgrimage destination for over 900 years. The Pilgrimage Church with the Chapel of Saint Nicholas is especially worth a visit. However, Andechs is a leading destination for everyone due to its brewery with Biergarten, where you can enjoy traditional Bavarian food while soaking up the beautiful views over the Alps and the lake region to the south of Munich.

Kloster Andechs can easily be reached from Munich city center with the S-Bahn line S8 to its terminal stop, "Herrsching." From there, you may opt for the easy five-kilometer hike to Kloster Andechs through beautiful woods or take a public bus directly to Andechs. In summer, combine your visit with a refreshing dip in the lake Ammersee.

### Dachau

When in Munich, you should visit the KZ-Gedenkstätte Dachau. The Dachau concentration camp was the first camp built in Germany a few weeks after Adolf Hitler became Reich Chancellor in 1933. Initially a camp for political prisoners, over 200,000 people from all over Europe were imprisoned in Dachau during its two years of existence, of which over 40,000 were murdered. The Memorial Site on the grounds of the former concentration camp is dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Daucher Concentration Camp. From Munich city center, take the S-Bahn line S2 to Dachau Station from where bus no. 726 (direction "Saubachsiedlung") takes you to the bus stop "KZ-Gedenkstätte."



## Day Trips

### Chiemsee

Often referred to as the "Bavarian Sea," Chiemsee is Bavaria's largest lake, with picture-book Bavarian scenery with mountains, rolling hills, and meadows. The bustling lakeside town of Prien am Chiemsee can easily be reached via train multiple times per day from Munich in a little under 60 min. Take a boat trip to the islands Fraueninsel with the Benedictine monastery Frauenwörth and Herreninsel with the famous Royal Palace of Herrenchiemsee, built by King Ludwig II of Bavaria based on the model of Versailles.

### Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the site of the 1936 Winter Olympic Games, is Bavaria's outdoor capital and a top year-round destination for locals and visitors alike. Garmisch-Partenkirchen offers an impressive introduction to the stunning Bavarian Alps for the entire family. Top attractions are the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain with 2,964m above sea level (can easily be reached via cable car), and the Partnach Gorge ("Partnachklamm"), a 700m-long narrow gorge with spectacular rock faces and dramatic waterfalls. From Munich central train station, it will take you approximately an hour and a half to Garmisch-Partenkirchen by train.

## Day Trips

### Augsburg

Founded by the Romans in 15 BC, Augsburg is the oldest city in Bavaria and the second oldest town in Germany. Nowadays, Augsburg is famous for its Renaissance ancient city center and the Fuggerei, the world's oldest still existing social settlement. Located approx. 56 km to the northeast of Munich, Augsburg can easily be reached by train from Munich in about 35 minutes. The old city center and the Fuggerei are within easy walking distance from the Augsburg central train station.

### Regensburg

Located roughly 124 km northeast of Munich, Regensburg on the riverbanks of the Danube boasts two UNESCO World Heritage titles- one for its incredibly well-preserved medieval old town and one for the Danube Limes, dating back to the Romans. From Munich, the train ride to Regensburg will take about one and a half hours, while Straub-ing is less than 30 minutes away.

### Schloss Neuschwanstein

One of Germany's most visited tourist attractions is the world-famous Schloss Neuschwanstein. The most famous of all King Ludwig II of Bavaria's many castles, Neuschwanstein was the blueprint for the castle in Walt Disney's Sleeping Beauty and has since shaped our imagination of fairy tale castles. From Munich, it will take you about two hours by train to the nearest town of Füssen and another 10 minutes via bus. While there, you may wish to combine your visit to the castle with a short hike to the nearby Marianbrücke, a bridge that offers spectacular views of the Schloss Neuschwanstein.





## Day Trips

### Rothenburg ob der Tauber

If you have to pick one stereotypical German medieval city, Rothenburg ob der Tauber should be on your list. With intact city fortifications and multiple towers, traditional timber-framed merchant and residence houses, and intricate cobblestoned alleyways and squares, Rothenburg ob der Tauber is a real-world version of a medieval fairy tale town.

The city is especially charming in December during Advent when Christmas decorations illuminate the medieval town center after sunset. Unfortunately, there are no direct trains from Munich, Straubing, and Heilbronn to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, and you have to change trains at least once in Nuremberg or Würzburg. Therefore, either start early for the approximately three-and-a-half-hour one-way trip from either location or extend your day trip to a small weekend outing, including a visit to Nuremberg or Würzburg.

For the ultimate Christmas experience, combine your trip to Rothenburg ob der Tauber with a stop at the Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt, one of Germany's oldest and most famous Christmas markets.







## Public Holidays

Not all public holidays ("gesetzliche Feiertage") in Germany apply to the entire federal territory. In addition to nine uniformly regulated public holidays, each federal state also determines holidays that are not necessarily applicable in other parts of Germany. Deeply rooted in its Christian faith, catholic holidays and religious celebrations continue to be essential events in the Bavarian seasonal calendar, especially in rural Bavarian regions and villages. With 13 public holidays per year, Bavaria has the highest number of holidays in a nationwide comparison.

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#### PLEASE NOTE

TUM, COMPANIES, BANKS, SHOPS, SUPERMARKETS, SCHOOLS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE USUALLY CLOSED ON PUBLIC AND REGIONAL HOLIDAYS. PUBLIC TRANSPORT RUNS ACCORDING TO THE SUNDAY SCHEDULE.

### National holidays

- **1 January - New Year's Day** ("Neujahr")
- **Good Friday** ("Karfreitag") – *in March/April, the exact date varies each year*
- **Easter Monday** ("Ostermontag") – *in March/April, the exact date varies each year*
- **1 May – Labour Day** ("Tag der Arbeit")
- **Ascension of Christ** ("Christi Himmelfahrt") – *in May, the exact date varies each year*
- **Whitmonday** ("Pfingstmontag") – *in May/June, the exact date varies each year*
- **3 October – German Unification Day** ("Tag der Deutschen Einheit")
- **25 December – Christmas Day** ("Erster Weihnachtstag")
- **26 December – Boxing Day** ("Zweiter Weihnachtstag")

### Public holidays in Bavaria

In addition to the national holidays, there are the following public holidays in Bavaria:

- **6 January – Epiphany** ("Heilige Drei Könige")
- **Corpus Christi** ("Fronleichnam") – *in May/June, the exact date varies each year*
- **15 August – Assumption Day** ("Mariä Himmelfahrt")
- **1 November – All Saints' Day** ("Allerheiligen")





## Festivals and Festivities

Besides national and public holidays, there are several vital festivities and traditional celebrations in Munich and its surrounding countryside, some of which are characteristic only of Munich!

### Tollwood

The Tollwood Festival is a Munich festival that has occurred every six months since 1988 on the Olympiapark (summer) and Theresienwiese (winter). In addition to a vast musical spectrum of rock, songwriters, jazz, and blues, there is also a comprehensive program of theater and artistic performances. A unique feature is the bio-certified festival gastronomy. At the Tollwood Winter Festival (also called the alternative Christmas market), visitors will indeed find a special gift for their loved ones for Christmas.

### Carnival

Carnival, "Fasching" in Bavaria, is the celebration period before the forty-day Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday. The carnival in Munich is not the most famous in Germany, but it also boasts a tradition of over 100 years and is celebrated with carnival parades and costume balls.

### Strong Beer Festival

The strong beer festival ("Starkbierfest"), also known as Munich's 5th season or the little sister of the Oktoberfest, is a three-week period between carnival and Easter where Munich's breweries serve the strong beer that has an alcohol content of 7.5% or more.

### The Maypole

A maypole is a decorated tree or tree trunk erected on 1 May in many German federal states and other Central and Northern European countries. The Bavarian maypole is painted with a white and blue spiral. It is often decorated with emblems from associations or guilds - or, like the maypole on the campus of the Garching Forschungszentrum - with symbols of the TUM departments/Schools. The erection of the maypole is accompanied by a village or town festival. In recent years, TUM's Student Representation has also celebrated our TUM maypole with the maiTUM festival at the beginning of May.

## Festivals and Festivities

### Auer Dult

Three times a year in spring, summer, and autumn, the Maiduit, Jakobidult, and Kirchweihdult (jointly known as Auer Dult) take place on the Mariahilfplatz square in the Munich suburb of "Au-Haidhausen." A mixture of carousels and rides, market stalls selling everything from spices, pottery, antiques, and great food, the Auer Dult is a popular attraction for Munich residents and tourists alike.

### Kocherlball

The Kocherlball is a folk dance event that occurs once a year on a Sunday in July from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Chinese Tower in the English Garden in Munich. In the 19th century, up to 5,000 Munich domestic workers (cooks, errand boys, nannies, house servants, etc.) met there early every Sunday morning in summer when the weather was nice before they had to go back to work.

### Gäuboden Festival

The Gäuboden Festival ("Gäubodenvolksfest") is held in Straubing annually in August. Originally initiated in 1812 as an agricultural festival to promote welfare and happiness for the rural population in Lower Bavaria, the Gäubodenvolkfest, with 1,4 million visitors per year, has developed into Bavaria's second largest beer festival, second only to the Oktoberfest in Munich. Besides beer tends, numerous carnival rides, and other attractions, a highlight of the Gäubodenvolksfest is the consumer exhibition Ostbayernschau, selling everything from kitchenware and clothing to tractors and other agricultural machines.

### Heilbronn Wine Festival

Each year in September, for 11 days, locals and tourists alike celebrate the wine heritage of Wurttemberg with the wine festival of Heilbronn's Weindorf with various wine-tasting events, wine tours, great food, and wines from the region's vineyards.

## Festivals and Festivities

### Oktoberfest

Of course, there is the world-famous Oktoberfest, known as “Wiesn” by locals. The Oktoberfest is the world's largest folk festival, held annually on Munich’s Theresienwiese since 1810.

The Oktoberfest has long been attracting millions of visitors yearly, and more and more of them come from abroad, mainly from Italy, the USA, Japan, and Australia. Festive tents are set up on the Theresienwiese, where the tables usually need to be reserved well in advance. Many Oktoberfest visitors come in traditional costumes (“Lederhosen” or “Dirndl”). Before 6 p.m., only traditional brass music is played. Hearty Bavarian dishes are mainly eaten, and the beer is sold in 1-liter mugs (“a Maß”). Only beer from traditional Munich breweries may be served at the Wiesn.

In addition to festival tents, there is a lively fairground at the Wiesn, with stalls and attractions for young and old, such as the Ferris wheel and carousels.





## Festivals and Festivities

### Parish Fair

Also called "Kirta" or "Kirmes," a firm Bavarian tradition in which the consecration of a church is officially celebrated every year. In many rural Bavarian areas, the third Sunday in October is anchored in the festival calendar as a church day. A Parish Fair often becomes a big festival with traditional dances and lavish, traditional food.

### St. Martin's Day

St. Martin's Day is the feast of Saint Martin of Tours on 11 November. On this day, different customs take place in many European countries, such as eating Saint Martin's goose dinner, Saint Martin's singing, and Saint Martin's procession. In many Bavarian towns and villages, there are nighttime processions of children carrying their hand-made lanterns across town while singing songs of Saint Martin.

### Advent

In Christianity, the Latin "adventus" (arrival) designates the season of preparation for the feast of the birth of Jesus Christ, Christmas. The Advent season begins on the first Advent and ends on Christmas Eve. It lasts between 22 and 28 days but always includes four Sundays, on which one ritually lights another candle on an Advent wreath every Sunday. For many Munich locals, Advent is the most beautiful time of the year, with various Christmas markets across the city- each with a different flair and great traditional food and mulled wine.

If you happen to be on TUM's Garching Forschungszentrum campus, do not miss the GLÜHNIX, our very own on-campus Christmas market organized by the Student Representation.









**VII. Contact Us**



## TUM-GS Welcome Office

At the Welcome Office of the TUM Graduate School, we make it our business to guide and support you from the beginning of your application to your start at TUM. We offer visiting doctoral candidates from Germany and abroad extensive information and comprehensive counseling on the following topics:

- Information on the possibilities of a guest doctorate at TUM, including funding options and application;
- Information on Visa, residence permits, insurance;
- Information on enrollment as visiting doctoral students;
- Information on coming to TUM with your family;
- Information on TUM-GS course offerings, cultural and networking events, as well as other TUM services;
- Accommodation support and information on living in the Greater Munich Area.

### Contact us!

Technical University of Munich  
TUM Graduate School- Welcome Office

Phone: +49.89.289.10603  
E-mail: [welcomeoffice@gs.tum.de](mailto:welcomeoffice@gs.tum.de)

Boltzmannstr. 17, 85748 Garching bei München



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## Notes

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## Contact us

### TUM Graduate School Welcome Office

By e-mail: [welcomeoffice@gs.tum.de](mailto:welcomeoffice@gs.tum.de)

Visit our website: [www.gs.tum.de](http://www.gs.tum.de)

### Social Media

Instagram: [@tum.graduateschool](https://www.instagram.com/tum.graduateschool)

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