

Call for Applications

TUM-UNESP Doctoral Summer/Winter School 2024 *“Climate-Responsive Sustainable Resource Management”*

**Summer School at UNESP: 23 September – 27 September 2024 and
Winter School at TUM: 9 December – 13 December 2024**

The focus of the interdisciplinary Summer/Winter School will revolve around the theme “Climate-Responsive Sustainable Resource Management.” In the face of climate change, research is crucial for advancing strategies that promote sustainable resource management around the globe. Through research, we can discover innovative solutions to address environmental challenges, optimize resource use, and strengthen ecosystems against disruptions caused by climate change. Applying this knowledge to practical strategies directly contributes to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including climate action, life below water, life on land, and responsible consumption and production. Insights gained from research also play a key role in shaping policies that align with the SDGs, promoting the integration of sustainable practices across various industries.

The Summer/Winter School is a unique combination of scientific talks, training on international & intercultural collaboration skills, site visits to different university campuses, and various social activities, cultural events, and excursions. The program offers participants a platform:

- To present their doctoral projects in the light of climate-responsive sustainable resource management,
- To gain interdisciplinary perspectives on their research,
- To strengthen their intercultural collaboration skills with a focus on Brazil/Latin America,
- To develop their scientific and personal network,
- To explore funding opportunities for future research endeavors with Brazil/Latin America,
- To experience Brazil and Sao Paulo State with their peers.

Furthermore, two academic mentors, Prof. Michael Zavrel (TUM) and Prof. Eleni Gomes (UNESP), will provide insights into current research and findings related to the program theme and offer participants the unique opportunity to discuss their research with renowned experts from different research fields and backgrounds.

Alongside five doctoral candidates from UNESP, the TUM Graduate School invites five doctoral candidates from TUM to participate in both the Summer School program at UNESP and the Winter School program at TUM.

Key program details for the 5-day Summer School Program at UNESP include:

- Excursions to UNESP labs across the state of Sao Paulo, covering campuses in Sao Paulo city, Araraquara, Rio Claro, and Sao Jose dos Campos.
- Poster presentations by the participants.
- Network opportunities with representatives of funding agencies and industry in Sao Paulo.
- Keynote sessions by professors providing insights into the potential use of waste for sustainable resource management, perspectives from both practice and research on the use of raw materials for renewable energy, and an exploration of entrepreneurship and innovation for securing novel approaches in sustainable resource management, among other topics.

- Visits and excursions to cultural, industrial, and natural sites, including a sugar cane power plant and the Technology Park São José dos Campos, recognized as Brazil's largest center of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Key program details for the 5-day Winter School Program at TUM include:

- Excursions to TUM labs, covering the downtown campus, as well as the campuses in Garching, Freising, and Straubing.
- Keynote sessions by professors addressing interdisciplinary research focus and presenting state-of-the-art developments in sustainable resource management. Topics covered will include sustainable infrastructure systems, biotechnological innovations, sustainable food management, and the protection of ecosystems, among others.
- Presentations by participants on the application of their doctoral research projects to climate-responsive sustainable resource management.
- Workshops on successful intercultural collaboration, grant proposal writing, and novel strategies for out-of-the-box thinking.
- Visits and excursions to cultural, industrial, and natural sites, such as a visit to a water power plant.

Who can apply?

Application is open to doctoral candidates from all disciplines and TUM Schools. Applicants should have a keen interest in the academic theme and be willing to engage with topics and concerns in the area of climate-responsive sustainable resource management.

TUM applicants must:

- Be a current doctoral candidate at TUM (no guest doctorates),
- Be a full member of the TUM Graduate School,
- Be fluent in English and be comfortable to engage with other participants in English,
- Have already secured the support for participation from their respective thesis supervisors,
- Have participated in the TUM Graduate School Kick-off seminar at the time of application,
- Be able to travel to Sao Paulo and participate in the entire one-week program of the Summer School at UNESP: 23 September – 27 September 2024, as well as the corresponding Winter School at TUM: 9 December – 13 December 2024.

How to apply?

Application is open from 12 March until 15 April 2024. Participants will be notified by the end of April. To apply for the TUM-UNESP Doctoral Summer/Winter School, please submit the following documents in one single PDF file via email to Dr. Melanie Frank (melanie.frank@tum.de):

- Fully completed **Application Form**
- Short CV - max. 2 pages
- Motivation letter outlining why you are applying and your interest in the academic theme (including your expectations and goals for the summer and winter school) - max. 1 page
- Summary of your doctoral research project - max. 2 pages

Funding

TUM offers 5 fully funded spots for TUM doctoral candidates, which include the following:

- Accommodation in Brazil during the program week of 23 September – 27 September 2024
- Lunch during the program weeks
- Transport between the different campuses of UNESP and TUM
- Reimbursement of flight expenses and visa application fees (if applicable) up to 1,300 EUR for the travel to the Summer School at UNESP (will be reimbursed after successful participation of the full program). Please note that travel cancellation insurance, travel health insurance, and any other kind of insurance cannot be reimbursed by the TUM Graduate School and will be subtracted from the total flight expenses if applicable.
- Participants are responsible for the costs of local travel from home to the airport and vice versa, as well as for any additional expenses they might have, including travel insurance, dinner, and the like.
- TUM Graduate School will not reimburse any daily allowance (Tagegeld)

Terms of participation

- Participants must attend the entire one-week program of the Summer School at UNESP: 23 September – 27 September 2024, **and** the corresponding Winter School at TUM: 9 December – 13 December 2024;
- Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements, for obtaining the necessary visa (if applicable) and other valid travel documents for their stay in Brazil. Invitation letters and proof of accommodation for visa application will be provided after selection on request.

Cancellation policy

- Please note that in case of cancellations (except due to illness), we cannot reimburse you any expenses already incurred in relation to the TUM-UNESP Doctoral Summer/Winter School, e.g., plane tickets or visa application fees.