



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DARMSTADT

TU Darmstadt

Contacts and additional information:

[www.tu-darmstadt.de](http://www.tu-darmstadt.de)

International Strategy





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*“Science always aspires to universal validity, so when we are doing science we must always adopt a global perspective.”*

*TU Darmstadt is already well-positioned and connected internationally. But now we have to take the next step and ensure that the international dimension is firmly anchored in all sectors of the university. This is an opportunity for us to make yet more crucial improvements to our teaching, research and administration.”*

*Prof. Dr. Hans Jürgen Prömel,  
President of TU Darmstadt*

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## International Strategy

**The international dimension** of study and research at Technische Universität (TU) Darmstadt is more important today than ever before. Academia, business and society are highly globalised; international networking is continuing to expand on all levels. The biggest technological challenges present themselves on a global scale and require close international collaboration. As a result, yet more targeted internationalisation in all sectors is an important precondition as well as an opportunity for TU Darmstadt to enhance its performance in studies and research.

**From the very beginning**, TU Darmstadt had a strong international orientation which has always shaped its profile and mission. The university actively promotes tolerance and acceptance irrespective of origin, gender and religion. It sees its international students and academics as well as the international experience and expertise of all the members of the university as an important feature of its identity.

**TU Darmstadt is well-positioned** to drive the development of its internationality. Due to the distinctive international dimension of its programmes, the university's graduates are highly qualified to embark on challenging scientific and professional careers. These programmes help them develop into creative, critical individuals and ensure that the university is open to students from other cultural backgrounds. Thanks to its close international research collaborations and highly visible research, TU Darmstadt contributes globally to the dynamic development of science, society and technology. The university is thus fulfilling its mission of making significant contributions to solving the most pressing issues affecting our future.



**The current international strategy** presents the principles TU Darmstadt has formulated to promote its continued, targeted internationalisation, divided into five fields of action. In certain areas, the university wants to set a regional focus in order to create synergies by bundling expertise and contacts. At the same time, TU Darmstadt believes that, in many areas, internationalisation must continue to differentiate between regions and target groups in order to achieve maximum compatibility in collaborations and top quality internationalisation. Based on its international visibility and reputation as well as intensive worldwide networking it seeks to enhance its position in the global academic contest. This will allow the university to attract outstanding researchers and students from all over the world.

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### *TU Darmstadt – international profile*

- *with its particularly high percentage of international students, one of the most international universities in Germany*
  - *globally connected with more than 100 partner universities in 40 countries*
  - *globally visible thanks to excellent research in defined focus areas*
  - *located in the Frankfurt-Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region, one of Europe's leading scientific and economic regions*
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## Partnerships and student exchange

**TU Darmstadt wishes** to foster and initiate partnerships with excellent universities in all parts of the world in order to open up attractive exchange opportunities for its students and develop academic collaborations. It wants to offer students from these partner universities the chance to gain valuable scientific and cultural experience at TU Darmstadt.

**Together with a small number** of international universities in various regions of the world TU Darmstadt has developed strategic partnerships which should provide a robust institutional framework for reliable, long-term cooperation and a solid basis for new, joint activities. The departments at TU Darmstadt also develop strategically important partnerships in order to build structures going well beyond individual, personal contacts. Within Europe in particular, university networks are used as structured frameworks for collaboration. The value and importance of TU Darmstadt's other partnerships remain unaffected by the creation of strategic partnerships.

**TU Darmstadt enters** into attractive new partnerships and develops existing partnerships in accordance with its needs and their potential. The quality of

the partner universities, the compatibility of their academic profiles and the substance of the partnerships are the criteria for changes of this kind.

**TU Darmstadt seeks to** provide internationally-oriented training, equipping graduates with the best possible qualifications for challenging positions in academia, business and administrations. All students will be offered the chance to spend time studying abroad before completing their Master's courses. TU Darmstadt strives to facilitate a high-quality exchange abroad for at least 30% of its graduates. Credits accrued during the exchange should always be validated on the basis of learning agreements.

**With its Double Degree Programmes** TU Darmstadt offers very international, high-grade courses which are extremely attractive for selected students. In cooperation with universities in countries which have a different approach to engineering education, these courses also have high academic added value. At the same time, courses of this kind are a tool with which to sustain and consolidate linkages with partner universities.

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### *Facts and actions*

*TU Darmstadt has concluded agreements on Double Degree Programmes with many partner universities, with a focus on Master's courses, which are chosen by a growing number of students.*

*TU Darmstadt is a member of the CLUSTER-consortium of leading European universities in science and engineering and of other European university networks.*

*The strategic partner universities with which TU Darmstadt has maintained long-term, particularly intensive collaborations across a number of subjects include Tongji University (China), Virginia Tech (USA) and EC Lyon (France).*



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## International students

**TU Darmstadt welcomes** students from all over the world who want to take a degree. It wants to offer its international students good conditions for their studies and reliable prospects of completing their degrees successfully. A degree from TU Darmstadt opens up excellent opportunities for finding employment in Germany, or in close connection with Germany, or, after a Master's degree, to take a doctorate at TU Darmstadt. In the mid-term, the university aims to increase the number of graduates from abroad to at least 600 per year.

**A Master's degree** is the level of qualification TU Darmstadt expects all its students to achieve. In order to highlight this profile in its internationalisation campaign it will focus on enrolling Master's candidates. The university already offers Master's courses taught in English, or with an English-language induction phase, and will continue to extend the options.

**TU Darmstadt only accepts** selected international students for Bachelor's degrees in order to ensure that they can follow the Bachelor's courses which are held in German. To recruit suitable candidates it intends to cooperate more closely with German schools abroad as well as with foreign schools in the PASCH Network which have a special focus on German.

**International students are** integrated in the university and student life not only with regard to language but also culturally and socially. TU Darmstadt intends to continue improving its study preparation for international students as well as its mentoring, particularly when they first arrive and during the initial phase of their courses. At the same time, the university encourages the international students themselves to take responsibility for shaping their course and becoming integrated. TU Darmstadt seeks to increase the percentage of women in those natural science and engineering subjects that women, traditionally, choose less frequently and therefore expressly encourages international women students to come to TU Darmstadt.

**The university's international** dimension, especially in the Master's phase, and the intensive cooperation between international and domestic students during their studies allow all students to acquire important intercultural expertise and language skills. TU Darmstadt thus seeks to develop a culture of diversity, promote tolerance and acceptance and qualify graduates for positions in both global science and business.



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### **Facts and actions**

*TU Darmstadt already enrolls two-thirds of the international students who wish to take a degree on Master's courses. In its marketing it will place even greater emphasis on this goal.*

*Approximately half of all international Master's students take courses taught in English. TU Darmstadt wants to extend its portfolio of Master's courses in English.*

*TU Darmstadt offers international graduates targeted measures to smooth their transition to the employment market.*

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## Junior researchers

**TU Darmstadt wishes to** enhance its status in the international mobility of doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers. It wants to consolidate its international reputation as an institution at which ambitious, talented, young researchers can spend a highly productive and seminal phase of their academic careers. The university sees the presence of international doctoral candidates and postdocs as a special opportunity to drive its research focus areas.

**The international recruitment** of outstanding doctoral candidates is set to become even more important to TU Darmstadt. The university will increase its information on its doctoral models and improve international candidates' access to doctoral positions.

**Doctoral candidates** at TU Darmstadt strategically develop their networks in order to optimise the progress of their doctorates and develop their international competence. Departments, graduate schools and doctoral supervisors as well as the umbrella organisation for junior researchers, Ingenium, promote international networking by providing flexible, tailored support. Ingenium offers advice and creates opportunities to acquire intercultural and language skills.

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### **Facts and actions**

*TU Darmstadt is the German university chosen most frequently by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's engineering fellows.*

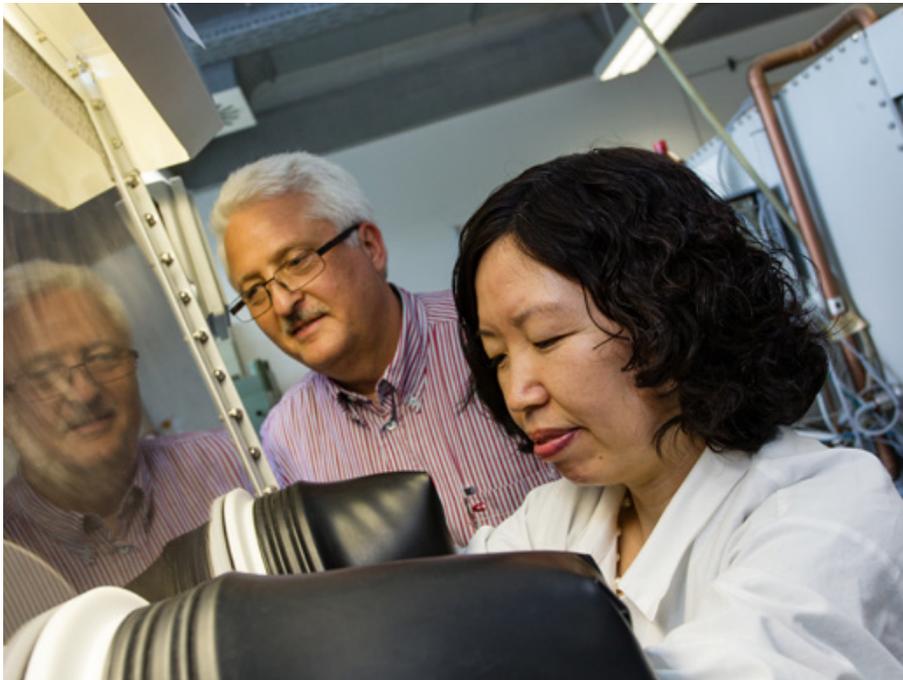
*TU Darmstadt is one of the German universities with the highest percentage of international academic staff.*

*Ingenium, the umbrella organisation for junior researchers at TU Darmstadt, helps international doctoral students and postdocs with relocation, integration and networking.*



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## International research reputation and research collaborations



**Already one** of the most highly visible universities of technology in Europe and across the globe, TU Darmstadt wants to enhance its international reputation yet further. It reinforces the international visibility of its research achievements, increases the number of publications in high-ranking journals and expands its participation in EU research programmes.

**TU Darmstadt strives to** engage in tailored international research collaborations. Departments, research clusters and researchers cooperate with precisely those international partners with whom they can best pursue their research goals. Appropriate administrative services at the university support this wealth of international collaborative relations and their development, which is essentially driven by the research units.

**In selected areas,** TU Darmstadt conducts strategic research collaborations with international partners. Strategic research collaborations create an institutional framework within which to connect complementary research focus areas and gain research access to the scientific issues of the future.

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### **Facts and actions**

*Over the last ten years, the total number of TU Darmstadt's international publications has grown by 5% per year.*

*Researchers at TU Darmstadt publish approximately half the articles that appear in journals jointly with international co-authors.*

*TU Darmstadt develops targeted strategic research collaborations, such as the "Clean Water China and Southeast Asia" network with universities in China, Singapore and Vietnam.*

*30% of the professors recruited by TU Darmstadt have an international background; the university wants to continue promoting international appointments.*

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## Communication and organisation

**TU Darmstadt's international** marketing and communication will be synchronised with the objectives of the international strategy. The university wants to increase its visibility amongst a selected regional or specialist international public of particular relevance to its profile and international dimension.

**TU Darmstadt targets** and coordinates the recruitment of international students and doctoral candidates. It posts all the relevant information for potentially interested international students and researchers on its clearly-structured English website.

**TU Darmstadt will continue** to drive the development of its organisation and internal structures in the field of internationalisation. It will extend its portfolio of services, where appropriate, in accordance with the goals of this international strategy. The entire university administration conducts its business with a high degree of intercultural competence and, if required, in English. Non-German-speaking students and academics can access all the essential processes and information they need in English.

**TU Darmstadt sees** considerable potential for increasing the volume of third-party funding to be raised for internationalisation. It wants to make systematic use of these opportunities in order to achieve the aims of its international strategy.



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### **Facts and actions**

*TU Darmstadt is a member of TU9, the association of nine leading German universities of technology. In future, TU Darmstadt will make yet greater use of TU9 as a platform for international marketing and communications.*

*Many international student groups are active at TU Darmstadt. They help international students, connect them with one another and act as ambassadors in their own countries. TU Darmstadt appreciates and supports the work of these student groups.*

*TU Darmstadt promotes intercultural and language skills in teaching and administration and will increase its continuing education opportunities.*

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