

Guidelines on Internationalization in the TUM Department of Informatics

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The BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research) states: "Growing globalization demands greater international orientation of institutions of higher education in a global education market, as well as greater exchange among students and scientists. More than ever, international exchange is a prerequisite for modern higher education, cutting-edge research, and innovation."

The TUM Department of Informatics acknowledges the need for internationalization in our discipline, in particular, and recognizes the extensive opportunities it brings. These guidelines and the strategy derived from them are to signal the significance of internationalization to our department. Our goal is to maintain our leading position among German-speaking departments of informatics in exercising rigorous internationalization. Currently, the TUM Department of Informatics boasts the highest number of Erasmus exchange students (outgoing and incoming) in Germany and just under 50% international students enrolled in the regular master's degree program of informatics (approximately 700 students in total).

The TUM Department of Informatics commits itself to the following guidelines:

- We strive for excellence in research, teaching and administration. At their best, these activities are inherently international in character. Both our staff and student body boast a large number of international members at all levels. We aim for 30% international students in total and 50% international students in the master's degree program. Regarding scientific staff, we aim for 20%, for administrative staff 10%.
Our goals for the internationalization of our student body have nearly been met. Staff statistics remain to be compiled.
- We strive to offer our students and doctoral candidates an education adequate to the demands of the global marketplace, including German and international companies, as well as to the economies in our students' native countries.
- We strive to establish a solid network of international universities and other research institutions to facilitate the best possible student exchange opportunities and research partnerships. All students are to gain experience in foreign countries in accord with their interests and academic competencies to foster their professional and personal development. We prepare our students well for these experiences abroad. Our exchange opportunities rest on the principle of mutuality. We, thus, seek to maintain and expand the necessary flexibility and openness to ensure adequate support for our exchange students during their periods of stay.
- We strive to ensure high levels of fluency in both German and English among our faculty members.
- We strive to create a respectful and integrative atmosphere in all departmental groups.

Strategies for Internationalization in the TUM Department of Informatics

As such, we seek to continue, consolidate and expand our efforts to internationalize teaching and to foster mutual respect among members in all groups of the department. To this end, the following measure have been implemented:

1. National and Non-National Students with German Higher Education Entrance Qualification At TUM:

- Intercultural course offerings to build intercultural competencies
- Opportunities and support for acquiring international language competencies
- Courses taught in English, especially at the master's level
- Interaction and integration through
 - MINGA (Buddy Program) as mentors
 - International Café for students interested in internationality
 - International Day as participants and visitors

Abroad:

- Offer opportunities for stays abroad for all interested students within the parameters of their studies at all levels (bachelor's, master's and doctoral studies) through
 - Appropriate advising and preparation
 - credit recognition
- Double degree programs at the master's level
 - Informatics: for a small number of highly-motivated students
 - Expansion of DD programs – in countries on every continent (currently under consideration: Australia, Brasil, South Korea)
 - Inclusion of other degree programs, esp. Information Systems

Partnerships for stays abroad:

- Erasmus: moderate expansion according to shifting student demands for specific countries and to collaborative teaching and research activities.
- TUMexchange: considerable expansion in emerging regions (Latin America, Asia, Africa)
- Expand departmental partnerships in developed countries/universities (esp. USA, Canda, Australia) through research cooperation

2. International Students

- Quality assurance through good selection standards
- Adequate preparation for studies at TUM and to meet the challenges of student life in Munich through information and advising
- Integration and interaction at TUM through
 - MINGA (Buddy Program)
 - Increase visibility of events such as World Map, International Day International Café
 - German course program up to level B2 in 4 semesters (incl. holiday courses)

- A special international student representative within the departmental student council/Asta
 - Development of an internationalization check at all levels (department, university, sports center, district offices, MVV, student union, esp. regarding living accommodations) through to an all-encompassing welcoming culture in Munich.
3. Departmental staff (administrative and academic)
- Intercultural training
 - English language instruction/coaching
 - Stays abroad through Erasmus Staff and Teaching Mobility programs
4. International exchange students (Incomings)
- This is a strategically important group of students with specific and individual needs.
- Good integration despite brief stays
 - Good preparation for study as exchange student at TUM
 - Advising as individualized as possible in accordance with the circumstances at the partner universities
5. Doctoral candidates and post-docs
- Support for research stays abroad through active development of the TUM Graduate School program and its graduate centers, esp. the CeDoSIA and IAS
 - Increase the number of visiting international doctoral students and post-docs to the department
6. International human resources
- Targeted recruiting of international academic and non-academic staff through to the recruitment of international professors
 - Foster language competencies in German
 - Foster integration and networking beyond the boundaries of individual Chairs

The TUM Department of Informatics implements these measures with positions paid for by tuition fee substitution funding. In areas of activity other than exchange programs, there is considerable need.