Extension of the strategic partnership between Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University and Technische Universität Berlin

The extension of the strategic partnership agreement between the two universities was signed by the rector of Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, Professor Andrei Rudskoi, and Professor Christian Thomsen, president of TU Berlin, as part of the strategic partnership forum held at TU Berlin on 7 February. [more…]

New Alliance for Europe

TU Berlin is coordinating the foundation of ENHANCE - a new alliance of seven research-centered European universities (European University of Technology Alliance). [more…]

First international mindSET training week in transferable skills for doctoral candidates

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Two new quality management processes for developing student exchange programs

How do I develop and initiate a student exchange agreement? Which criteria have to be fulfilled and which institutes at TU Berlin need to be involved? Answers to these and other questions have been developed in two new quality management process descriptions. [more…]
Ausschreibungen

**Be a Buddy in Summer Semester 2020 register by 16 March 2020.**
Student buddies volunteer to help international exchange students adjust to life at TU Berlin. TU students can register for the buddy module until 16 March (3 LP) for summer semester 2020.

**Seed Funding Global South Deadline: 06.04.2020.**
TU Berlin is publishing a second call for applications for seed funding for cooperation with Global South partners. If you are interested, please contact International Projects.

**International Trainings in Transferable Skills for Doctoral Candidates**
**Deadline:** Doctoral candidates from STEM subjects can apply at any time for the next mindSET courses. Trainings are offered on a number of topics and the next dates are: 23-27 March (Warsaw); 25-29 May (Trondheim); 15-19 June (Milan).

**PROMOS Program: Funding Student Mobility Deadline 30.04.2020.**
Student Mobility and International Students invites applications for study periods abroad of up to six months.

**Studying abroad in Australia & South America Deadline 14.05.2020.**
Students wishing to study in Australia, Brazil or Chile during 2021 can apply to Student Mobility and International Students for a place and a TU-grant to cover some of their expenses.

**FAPESP-TUB Sprint Call 2020 Deadline: 31.07.2020.**
In 2020, TU Berlin and FAPESP are, for the first time, funding joint projects conducted by researchers at TU Berlin with partners from the state of São Paulo. Start of call: 30.04.2020.

**DFG-CAPES Collaborative Research Initiative Deadline: TBA.**
DFG and CAPES fund projects in the areas of chemistry, law and engineering. The next calls will be announced on the DFG and CAPES websites mid-2020.

Termine

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Extension of the strategic partnership between Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University and Technische Universität Berlin

The extension of the strategic partnership agreement between the two universities was signed by the rector of Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, Professor Andrei Rudskoi, and Professor Christian Thomsen, president of TU Berlin, as part of the strategic partnership forum held at TU Berlin on 7 February.

The agreement was initiated in 2013 and has now been extended for a further five years. By signing the extension, both universities reaffirm their commitment to further developing this very successful cooperation, which embraces both a joint master's degree in entrepreneurship, a student exchange program, a doctoral agreement and collaboration in the World Cities World Class University Network (WC2). Rector Andrei Rudskoi observed that the foundations for the cooperation were laid during his visit in 2015 and that the very close cooperation between the two universities would now be consolidated and strengthened.

A selection of research projects conducted by scholars from SPbPU and TU Berlin in the areas of space technology, fluid mechanics, entrepreneurship and modern languages presented during the forum reveals the diverse nature of this strategic partnership. "The interdisciplinarity of the two institutions means that we work very well together in interdisciplinary fields. We are working closely to advance projects in the areas of climate change and digitalization and our Russian partner possesses outstanding technological expertise in these fields," said President Thomsen.

The next five years will make a decisive contribution to cementing our partnership, extending our successful cooperation, and strengthening the ties between Peter the Great St Petersburg Polytechnic University and Technische Universität Berlin. The cooperation is also pursued in the area of administration.

The visit was organized by International Scientific Cooperation. Ms. Daria Mokhova, regional coordinator for SPbPU's partnerships with Germany, supported the event during her three-week visit to the Department of International Affairs. This provided an excellent opportunity for her to get to know TU Berlin better and to improve communication and work processes.

New Alliance for Europe

TU Berlin is coordinating the foundation of ENHANCE - a new alliance of seven research-centered European universities (European University of Technology Alliance).

The Alliance includes TU Berlin's strategic partners NTNU, Trondheim, Norway; Politecnico di Milano, Italy; and Politechnika Warszawska, Poland as well as RWTH Aachen, Germany; Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain and Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. The partner institutions submitted an application within the European University Initiative at the end of February. The aim of the initiative is to significantly increase mobility of students, professors and other staff within Europe. A particular area of focus of the Alliance is to explore how technical universities can work more closely with society and respond intelligently to future topics such as climate change and artificial intelligence. A decision regarding the application is expected in June. Keep your fingers crossed!

Further information can be found in the TUB-newsportal and TUB press release from February 27 2020.

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First international mindSET training week in transferable skills for doctoral candidates

In January, doctoral candidates from TU Berlin and our strategic partner universities Politecnico di Milano, NTNU – Norwegian University of Science and Technology and Warsaw University of Technology met in Berlin for the first of eight international trainings in transferable skills for doctoral students within the Training the mindSET project.

The first topics to be discussed were "Writing compelling project proposals" and "Innovative teaching methods". In addition to attendees from Germany, Italy, Norway and Poland, the event also attracted doctoral students from a number of other countries including Brazil, Egypt, Pakistan and China. The international nature of the event was particularly welcomed by the participants, who appreciated the chance to network with international colleagues and the mutual learning opportunities this exchange provided. The interactive design of the course ensured that this aspect was particularly effective.

TU Berlin and its strategic partner universities have been cooperating in the Training the mindSET project since September 2018 with the aim of enhancing and internationalizing skills trainings for doctoral candidates. The project focuses in particular on transferable skills and the issues of project management, leadership, communication, and technology transfer for doctoral candidates in the STEM subjects. The overall aim is to create a European curriculum for transferable skills with detailed course concepts and webinars to serve as a guideline for models to advance the skills of doctoral students.

The innovative course concepts will be tried out in a number of five-day English-language trainings led by mixed teams of trainers from the participating universities to be held at each of the four partner institutions. The size of the groups (16 participants - four from each university) ensures a concentrated working atmosphere where it is possible to address individual questions and participate in meaningful group work.

The project will run until August 2021, with a further seven trainings to be held in Warsaw, Milan, Trondheim and Berlin. We welcome applications from all doctoral candidates interested in attending. Further information can be obtained from the project website or directly from TU Berlin. Grants are available to cover the costs of the training as well as travel and subsistence.

This three-year project is one of 20 approved by the German Erasmus+ National Agency as part of the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships 2018 funding instrument. The following institutes and units at TU Berlin are involved in the project: the Center for Scientific Continuing Education and Cooperation, TU-DOC - Office for Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Services, and International Projects.

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TU Berlin strengthens its cooperation with partners in the Global South

TU Berlin is publishing a second call for applications for seed funding for cooperation with Global South countries as part of its Strategy on Global Responsibility (Deadline: 06.04.2020). The call is aimed at TU Berlin researchers initiating new projects or seeking to strengthen existing cooperation with Global South partners.

TU Berlin initiated a program for seed funding for cooperation with Global South partners last year. Since then, funding has been provided for six projects operating within the framework of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One such project was the CREATE workshop, which was held in Colombia and attended by fifty persons representing districts affected by coal mining, civil society, labor unions, NGOs as well as science and research. The workshop was initiated by the Chair of Economic and Infrastructure Policy’s junior research group "CoalExit", led by Dr. Pao-Yu Oei. The goal of the CREATE workshop (Caribbean Research Alternatives for a Transformation in Energy and Economy) was to find formats and possibilities for organizing participative research in the area of coal phase-out and energy transformation in the La Guajira and Cesar regions. Researchers from all over Colombia took part in the workshop held at the Universidad del Magdalena in Santa Marta. The workshop also helped to greatly strengthen collaboration between TU Berlin’s Chair of Economic and Infrastructure Policy and its local partner institutes, the Chair of Economics and Management Sciences at the Universidad del Magdalena and the Universidad Nacional de Colombia’s Institute for Environmental Sciences (IDEA).
One of the outcomes of the workshop was agreement regarding the importance of a just and transparent transition involving the local population. There was still considerable uncertainty, however, regarding the options, opportunities and challenges presented by the phase-out of fossil fuels as well as the options for renewable energies. The idea of a mobile just transition academy was developed during the workshop in order to address this uncertainty and involve communities as both subjects and partners of research. The aim is to disseminate relevant knowledge and encourage communities to introduce transformations in energy and the economy at local level before large and established corporations take over the process. An additional objective is to submit joint applications for funding to initiate pilot projects in the areas of citizen science and citizen energy projects.

The CREATE workshop contributed significantly to strengthening collaboration between TU Berlin and its Colombian partners. The workshop further made a meaningful contribution to climate protection (SDG 13), taking account of social, ecological and economic factors, as well to achieving the goal of securing access to clean, reliable and affordable energy (SDG 7). A more detailed report can be accessed at the website of International Projects.

International Projects is the main point of contact for academic cooperation with partners in the Global South. In this capacity, International Projects has also supported academic chairs at TU Berlin with applications to the DAAD’s “Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation – exceed” program. We are delighted to announce that the Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS), operated by the Chair of Methods of Social Research, led by Professor Nina Baur, and the Chair of Urban Design and Urban Development, led by Professor Angela Million, has been funded within this program since the start of 2020.

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New head of the TU Berlin Liaison Office in Cairo

Ms. Ingy Nafie took over as head of the TU Berlin Liaison Office in Cairo at the beginning of 2020. She represents the University in Egypt and supports TU Berlin’s activities in the areas of science, research and marketing.

Ingy is also working on setting up and developing partnerships with Egyptian universities and advises local Egyptian students and researchers on issues relating to studying at TU Berlin. She further represents TU Berlin
at events and fairs, such as the German Science Day, and assists the TUB campus in El Gouna with planning and conducting marketing events in Cairo.

After completing her schooling at the German Schule der Borromäerinnen in Alexandria, Ingy studied economics in Germany, graduating with a focus on marketing. While studying, she worked for five years in the international office at Hof University of Applied Sciences.

Upon graduating, she worked for the German department of Vodafone International Services and was head of the customer experience team in Alexandria for one year. Before joining TU Berlin, she worked as marketing coordinator for the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) at its office in Cairo.

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Two new quality management processes for developing student exchange programs

How do I develop and initiate a student exchange agreement? Which criteria have to be fulfilled and which institutes at TU Berlin need to be involved? Answers to these and other questions have been developed in two new quality management process descriptions.

QMS process descriptions are TU-internal QM guidance documents, to quote from the website of TU Berlin’s Quality Management Services. That sounds somewhat dry and theoretical. Since its introduction in 2015, however, the QMS process description for developing dual degree agreements has proven extremely helpful.

Up until now, however, there have been no comparable guidelines for the development of student exchange programs with partner universities in Europe and overseas. We are pleased to announce that guidelines for this procedure have now been developed by Student Mobility and International Students in collaboration with representatives of the faculties and staff from Quality Management Services. These guidelines were presented to the quality management working group of the deans of study at TU Berlin in December 2019.

In addition to the necessary criteria and steps to be fulfilled, the process descriptions also include information concerning which elements need to be included in agreements for overseas exchanges or inter-institutional agreements within Erasmus +. A complementary checklist identifies what needs to be clarified in the run-up to the development of a student exchange program to support academic chairs in initiating new cooperations.

Both the process description and checklist are currently subject to an approval procedure involving all faculties at the University. As soon as approval has been obtained, both measures will be incorporated into a procedural handbook for TU Berlin and will also be linked on the website of Student Mobility and International Students. Hopefully these will prove as useful as the process description for developing dual degree programs referred to above, despite the rather dry description on the website!

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