



Dear partner,

As Germany and Europe are slowly moving towards a new state of normal, we send this message to update you on how COVID-19 has affected TU Darmstadt and, more importantly, on how the organization of the winter semester 2020-2021 is taking shape.

Like all universities worldwide, TU Darmstadt has adapted quickly to the new reality shaped by COVID-19 as of Mid-March 2020. We have taken measures to ensure the safety of all of our students and staff. We have worked – and are working – hard to continue education, examination and research. Today, we are teaching all our courses online and are adamant in ensuring that no student falls behind. While working remotely remains the norm whenever possible, we are reopening our labs gradually.

At the moment, we are preparing for the upcoming academic year. Acknowledging that COVID-19 will still be part of our daily lives for many months to come, there are hopeful signs. The epidemiological reality in Germany has taken a positive direction and government restrictions are slowly being lifted. Nevertheless, we will have to deal with physical distancing and other protective measures for a while longer. We assume that teaching will primarily be conducted online. Traveling may still be complicated, and the academic experience of students and staff will certainly be different. Yet, we are convinced that we can shape the next academic year in a way that allows us to maintain our high standards in education and research.

This corona crisis has brought almost all academic mobility to a halt, worldwide. But since we are convinced that internationalisation of class rooms, students and staff is a crucial quality asset for education and research, we are committed to uphold all our international cooperation – within the limitation set by national and international rules and regulations. What does this mean?

Die Präsidentin

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TU Darmstadt will continue to welcome all international students – degree seeking and exchange students – to study at TU Darmstadt. We will strive to accommodate all students and to remain flexible in order to cater to individual needs and circumstances.

Exchange programmes shall be continued – either virtually or physically - always taking into account that safety and health are top priorities for all students and staff. If the situation allows, TU Darmstadt would like to resume sending its students and staff into the world. Over time – and in line with government policies as well as the epidemiological reality – we hope to be able to lift travel restrictions and allow mobility to a limited number of countries, in the hope of expanding this list successively.

We are also keen to explore and develop more opportunities for virtual exchanges and blended mobility, using the current situation as a unique opportunity to move forward in this direction much faster than we could have anticipated just a few months ago. In particular, we are planning to offer an online course “German for STEM” in fall 2020 and would be very happy if your students were interested in such an offer.

For information about the measures we have taken at TU Darmstadt, we kindly refer you to our [website](#).

Finally, I would like to thank you for your trust and cooperation throughout this pandemic. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Dean of International Affairs, Mrs. Regina Sonntag-Krupp (regina.sonntag-krupp@tu-darmstadt.de).

Kind regards,

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