

## *Frequently Asked Questions about TUM: Junge Akademie*

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How much money will I receive?	The <b>projects</b> are financially supported by the JA. You will <b>not</b> receive personal funding as this is not a financial scholarship program.
How is this different from e.g., Manage and More?	The JA is directed <b>towards an academic career</b> . This does not mean that you are expected to work in Academia later, but there is less of a focus on entrepreneurship than in other programs at the TUM.
How many people were nominated? Based on what criteria?	Around 4000. That means 10% on average, but the exact percentages differ depending on the size of your department. We do not have a grade-cut-off.
How many people usually apply?	About 200.
How many students are invited for the selection days?	About 100.
How many people will be accepted?	About 50.
Is both an essay and a video required?	You only have to submit <b>one</b> of them. The choice is up to you.
Is the program online or in person? What about the application?	You can expect (or hope) that the projects will be in person, at least towards the end. The selection days are unsure yet, so expect both.
Does this program interfere with other programs?	No, usually not. Since the JA is not a financial scholarship program, there is <b>no interference with financial programs</b> . Other than that, the only limiting factor is whether you have <b>enough time to participate</b> in several programs.
Can/should I apply when I'm not in Munich/Germany the entire time?	At the moment we are all over the world. When the pandemic ends you should ideally not be outside of Germany the entire time.

But we (and your teammates) can handle it if you decide to study abroad for a semester, so don't worry too much.

Where can I find information about this years' call?

You can find information on our **website**: [ja.tum.de/apply](https://www.ja.tum.de/apply)

Are we expected to show a first project idea related to the call or is it more about our ideas and thoughts on the call?

It can be both. If you have a concrete idea, you can explain it in your essay. But you can also just talk about your ideas and thoughts. Just make sure the essay is interesting to read.

How are groups decided? And how are projects decided?

You find groups of **5-10 people** yourselves based on **common interests** after the application procedure. The **projects** will then also be found within that group. You will have a lot of time to find your specific project, so don't worry about having to work on something that you didn't agree to.

How many groups are there?

Usually, 5-6. See <https://www.ja.tum.de/projekte/> for last years' groups.

What does the entire application process look like?

**Until August 31st** you will send in your application documents (more here <https://www.ja.tum.de/apply/>), which will then be checked by us. After a month, if you are in the next round, we would invite you to the selection days, where you will be interviewed and participate in group works for an assessment by us and several professors. If you pass that stage, you are accepted. You will then work on your project and after some months there will be a final check-up to make sure that everything is fine (don't worry, we don't aim to throw anyone out at that stage)

Question about the format/content of the essay/letter of motivation/...

All formal requirements are here <https://www.ja.tum.de/apply/>. Whatever is not written there is not required. E.g., we don't have exact requirements for **what** you should write in your essay. Be **creative and show your motivation**, that is most important.

Does the essay have to propose a project idea? Will I have to do that project then?

No and no. You can propose a creative idea if you want to, but what you write in your essay will not affect your work at the JA.

Is the essay more about inspiring or more about scientific work?

You can write your essay about whatever you like. **You can write something scientific, and you can write about what inspires you.**

Can I apply without nomination?

Yes, if you have a letter of recommendation (more here <https://www.ja.tum.de/apply/>). If you don't know a professor who can help you, we might be able to get you in contact with one, so don't hesitate to ask.

What if I'm nominated by get a letter of recommendation anyways?

You don't need to; it doesn't make a difference.

Can I apply despite being in the ... semester? **Yes.**

What grades do I need to have? What grades do you all have?

After the nomination (which already happened) the grades are mostly unimportant. We often have grades in the 1 or good 2 area, but it also depends on what course you're coming from.

What if my grades get worse after this semester?

Doesn't matter. Your grades are largely unimportant from here on out. (I say largely, because there might be edge cases if someone has good grades, but not in subjects that are relevant to their course.

What do the selections days look like and what are the important criteria?

The selection days are basically like an assessment centre. You will have an interview; some individual work and you will have to participate at some group work events.

What if I get accepted but realize that I don't have enough time?

We have a preliminary acceptance phase of several months. If you really don't have enough time, you will be able to leave.

Can participating in this program help me to get a PhD position/Master's thesis/...?

You will improve your scientific skills. Whether you get a PhD position is not up to us. However, there are a lot of us who do/did a PhD.

Is it possible to do your PhD simultaneously to the scholarship?

Yes, this works quite well

Will the scholarship be in English?

Yes, at least the seminars will be. If you want to talk German within your team, that is up to you.

Can participation in this program get me ECTS?

**No.**

Who is going to read and assess the essays?

We as the Taskforce Members are going to have a look at all the applications.

Do we get a certificate?

Yes, but if that is your only motivation, then you don't even need to apply. This is also in your best interest, as you likely won't enjoy working in a team for 20 months then.

What successful projects have come from the JA?

There are a lot. However, you might know "TUM4Mind" or "Quintessence" (BREAKMORE). The latter was selected as one of the main teams of the TUM Future Learning Initiative 2020.

How interdisciplinary is it?

We nominate students from all faculties and our partner institutions (see presentation at the info-events). The final selection is usually

a quite healthy mix.

What exactly should I write for the call?

We are being **vague on purpose**. It is intended **to give a direction and something to start brainstorming** on. While your essay/video and the projects **should be related to the call in some way, we don't have a formal restriction**.

What if I leave my university/institution during the project?

This is not a problem. Many scholarship holders finish their Master's degree during the project.

What restrictions are there on the projects?

You are mostly free to do what interests you. You will be guided by tutors (usually alumni) and supervisors (usually professors), so you don't do anything ridiculous. You have to write a scientific paper based on a research question at the end, so your project could either be fully scientific or a product (e.g., an app) that can help answer a research question.

What support will we get for the projects?

Aside from seminars, mentors (usually alumni, 2 per team) and supervisors (usually professors, 2 per team), we can support the project financially or with networking. If there are certain smaller things that your project needs, I'm sure you'll also find help for that in the JA.

What does project work look like?

Largely up to you, but keep in mind that a team usually has students from various backgrounds. Doing something like lab-work might not be possible for all participants

What does taskforce work look like?

You can find information on the individual taskforces here <https://www.ja.tum.de/taskforces/>. The kind of work differs between all of them.

What are the taskforces for exactly?

The JA is in large parts organized and run by its scholarship holders and alumni. The taskforces have organically been created whenever there was a need and interest for a certain task. For example, the entire application process you are currently facing as well as the info-events are organized by the

taskforce Members.

What is the expected workload?

You should plan to have **at least 5 hours per week** (for most weeks. Of course, we also work different amounts during exam phases or semester breaks), but workloads are highly flexible. Some of us also do much more than that because we enjoy the work here. The only restrictions are seminars every few weeks, where we assert your progress, and that you must find an agreement with your team members.

If there is no project I am interested in, is it possible to quit or would this be a disadvantage for others?

You can quit but should nevertheless think about the consequences for your team. And by doing so, you deprive somebody else of the scholarship opportunity who likely would have enjoyed the program. Don't regard this as being a joke. It is quite a poor move to first accept and then withdraw before the action starts

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