



The new #class26 at their Kickoff Seminar in November

Dear members, friends, and supporters of TUM: Junge Akademie,

As we draw to a close on another eventful year in 2025, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who have supported TUM: Junge Akademie through their active support, their contributions, and expertise, through their ideas, goodwill, and, of course, through their work as scholarship holders within their projects and task forces, as well through their leadership and professional organization in the TUM: Junge Akademie office.

This year's cleverly placed call, 'Mind the Gap,' once again offered a wide range of starting points for discussing pressing issues of our time, which were multifacetedly addressed in the scholarship applications. To mention a few aspects: from questions of diversity to the handling of technology-induced transformations, from political polarization to geopolitical hurdles, from reducing societal obstacles to robust science communication, from judgements based on personal anecdotes or subjective concerns to the search for objective truths; the spectrum of topics that engages our students and the scholarship holders want to explore with the aim of creating concrete results in their projects, is broad. The selection days and the kick-off were characterized—perhaps more than in

earlier, less disruptive times—by intensive exchange and mutual inspiration. We can look forward to seeing what results will emerge from the interdisciplinary collaboration within and between the teams that have just started their work. The five projects of Class 2025 on the topic of 'Future Societies' also clearly illustrate the broad spectrum of issues that concern our future scientists. Feel free to take a look.

In the 2000s, TUM anticipated future developments in teaching by challenging students with open-ended solution spaces that require interdisciplinary co-creation through the TUM: Junge Akademie. Thus, one can recall that TUM: Junge Akademie has been and still is a perfect testbed for piloting ideas. It has embraced the subject of challenge-based and project-based learning, which is becoming increasingly standard in higher education today. The experiences gained helped us advance in many ways, as has our experience with experimental formats in innovative study programs. This has enabled us to set markers for the further development of modern teaching and the transfer of future skills, based on valid experience, as currently reflected in our educational concepts within the context of the Excellence Initiative, which we presented to external experts a few weeks ago.

Let us continue to work towards a promising future, embracing upcoming challenges with scientific rigor, diligence, and the courage to pursue new and promising ideas.

I wish you a peaceful, healthy, and successful 2026, and I am looking forward to the next opportunity for exchange and discussion.

Sincerely,
Gerhard Müller

TUMJA News



Kickoff Seminar

New Ideas, Ongoing Progress

At our Kickoff Seminar, #class26 met #class25 for the first time. A weekend full of team formation, research ideas, and inspiring knowledge transfer between cohorts.

While #class26 was busy defining their ideas,

First steps to the new student research projects of #class26

#class25 continued to push forward with their own project work.

Impressions on Instagram



Happy Holidays!

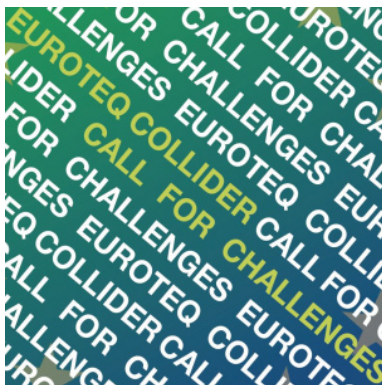
Season's Greetings

Merry Holidays and a Happy Start in 2026!

The TUMJA team wishes everyone a peaceful holiday season and a happy, healthy, and successful start into the new year!

Stay updated in 2026

EuroTeQ News



EuroTeQ Call for Challenges

EuroTeQ Collider at TUM 2026

Invitation to Collaborate with Young Talent

Join the EuroTeQ Collider and collaborate with highly motivated TUM students on real-world challenges from your field. By submitting a task, you become an active project partner and co-create innovative solutions with a student team over five weeks. Take this opportunity to gain fresh perspectives, support young talent, and help shape practical, impactful outcomes. We invite you to get involved!

[read more](#)

Alumni presented

Interview with TUMJA alumna

Dr. Lea Luka Sikau



Curator, sound scientist, mezzo-soprano, and media artist Dr. Lea Luka Sikau

In this interview, TUMJA alumna Dr. Lea Luka Sikau offers a thoughtful perspective on her interdisciplinary path from classical music to sound research, media art, and curatorial practice. She reflects on her experiences at TUMJA, the significance of cross-disciplinary collaboration, and the development of her current projects on fermentation, machine learning, and multisensory approaches to science communication.

[read the interview](#)

Project News #class25



Data collection done in:
Germany, Peru, Turkiye,
Romania, China

K.U.N.S.T.

Data Collection

We are in the final stages of data collection, with the survey being done in 3 cities, with the final two being in process. Through our experiment, we gathered many participants in Munich. Our goal is to find a few more participants before starting data analysis.

[read more](#)



Team Sprouts

Sprouts

Ready for Data Collection

Having finalized our survey on eating behaviour in Germany, we are currently organizing our data collection through survey agencies. We're excited to see the first results coming in soon!

[read more](#)



Team voTUM at the Seminar Weekend in November

voTUM

Refining our Survey Design

We are currently revisiting and fine-tuning our survey design, integrating valuable feedback from TUMJA tutors and trainers, supported by a deep dive into statistics during the last seminar weekend.

[read more](#)

Project News #class26



Our Team at the Seminar Weekend

stressED

Our Mission

We aim to investigate the difference between subjective and objective stress levels, via the means of questionnaires and quantitative measurement of cortisol levels in saliva. While considering various stressors among individuals of different backgrounds, and recommending interventions based on the measurements to decrease stress levels.



Team DNJA

DNJA

DNA as a Storage Medium

While digital data is stored on physical storage drives, nature saves information inside DNA. Each method has different advantages, but they have rarely been connected to each other. We want to store digital pictures as biological information inside DNA and retrieve the information back as digital data.

Climate Barriers

Gap between Knowledge and Action



Project Team Climate Barriers

We aim to explore the gap that exists in society between knowledge about climate change and the actions taken to address it. Through a two-phase research design, we will investigate the societal, cultural, and political factors that influence this discrepancy.



Team DExchange

DEExchange

Meet the Team

Have you ever wondered where to study? We are 4 students from different fields and want to rethink the study experience in Germany. Can an inner German exchange foster the collaboration and togetherness of students from different regions? Accompany Justus, Marlene, Laura, and Jean-Pasqual on their path to build a network and improve country-wide relationships :)



From left to right: Ludwig Zeller, Jakub Niklas, Niranjana Kumar, Janice Nsanzimana, Annie Bao
(Missing: Jan Vitzthum)

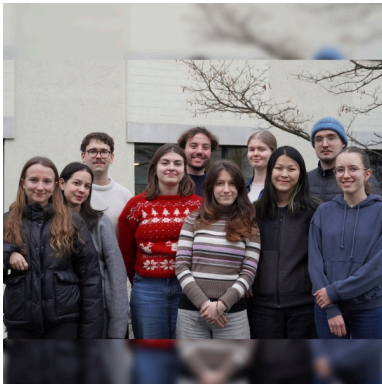
intelliTUM

Bridging Organoid and Artificial Intelligence

We are team intelliTUM, a six-member interdisciplinary team. We have a shared interest in learning, neuroscience, and computation, as well as a strong drive to work in an interdisciplinary group at the intersection of technical and biological systems. We want to explore the differences between neural organoids and artificial neural systems, investigating their organisation, learning, and efficiency.

CultivaTUM

Our First Steps



Team CultivaTUM with their tutors

How to handle uncertainty? Which recommendation should be followed? What to grow today and harvest tomorrow? From climate change to political instabilities – farmers worldwide find themselves confronted with a plethora of uncertainties and fluctuating expectations of the future. Team CultivaTUM aims to analyse how uncertainties affect the agricultural sector and their responses in different areas around the world. Olivia Jarosch and Nico Lugger from #class24 support us as our tutors, and Prof. Dr. Richard Bamler as our supervisor. We have been working hard on our literature research, and we're looking forward to defining a concrete, meaningful research question. We're excited for any and all additional input from the TUMJA and TUM community.

Taskforces News



Welcome new #class26

Recruiting

#class26 kicked off their Journey!

After some very successful Selection Days in October, we've kicked off the new class during the seminar weekend in Possenhofen.

[visit our website](#)



Symposium

Save the Date: 10 June 2026

During the seminar weekend, we decided to have a very interactive symposium, providing guests with ample opportunities to follow their interests and socialize. Our next step is the implementation of these ideas.

Save the Date!

[visit our website](#)



Taskforce Marketing

Marketing

New Semester, new Tasks.

Our next steps in TF Marketing include creating the new hoodie design. We also prepared an exciting interview with TUMJA alumna Lea Luka.

[visit our website](#)



#class25 and #class26 came together to solve crime at the murder mystery dinner

Event

Getting Ready for the Winter Season!

After the Halloween party and the recent murder mystery dinner (which was the first event that saw #class26 joining!), we are now working hard on organising several Christmas-themed events as well as the much-requested TUMJA skiing weekend. Looking forward to seeing you there!

[visit our website](#)



The next Science Hack

CAP

TUM Science Hackathon 2026 - Science For Future

Mark your calendars! We are in the middle of organising the next TUM Science Hackathon, taking place on 19-21 June 2026. Stay tuned to find out who our challenge partners will be this year...

[read more](#)

Save the Date @TUMJA

31 January - 2 February | TUMJA Future Lab I + II

15 April - 21 May | [EuroTeQ Collider 2026](#)

6 May | TUM-Campuslauf

10 June | Symposium #class25

19 - 21 June | [TUM Science Hackathon](#)

Save the Date @ Partners

11 December | wavelab HMTM | [Quantum Computing and the Arts](#)

16 December | acatech am Dienstag | [Industrielle Biotechnologie](#)

22 January | TUM Alumni & Career | [TUM Career Day](#)

27 January | acatech am Dienstag | [TechTalk: Von der Idee zum Unternehmen](#)

7 February | acatech am Dienstag | [Hat die Wissenschaft immer recht?](#)

Site notice

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