Once a Guest, Forever a Friend
The TUM Research Alumni

“We at TUM seek to invest in individuals with the passion to develop their talents, the freedom to transcend the boundaries between scientific disciplines and the courage to create new connections in knowledge and technology. Such are our research alumni. Without them TUM would not be the place that it is today.”

Wolfgang A. Herrmann
President
The ideas competition “Research Alumni of German Universities” was launched in 2011. It is part of the collaborative project “International Research Marketing”, which is a joint initiative by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. In 2012 the Technische Universität München was one of the award winners of the ideas competition.

www.research-alumni.de

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
Founded in 1953, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) supports science cooperation between outstanding researchers from Germany and abroad. Building on decades of experience in alumni networks and relations, in the last few years the AvH has focused on promoting research alumni activities at universities in Germany.

www.humboldt-foundation.de

Bund der Freunde der TUM e.V.
The Bund der Freunde of TUM (BdF), founded in 1922, is the traditional association of sponsors and friends of the Technische Universität München. Its main goals are the promotion of junior scientists, the support of international cooperation and of alumni relations of the university.

www.bund-der-freunde-tum.de
This brochure is dedicated to

our Research Alumni and their Hosts.

Their synergy is at the core of TUM’s pursuit of excellence through innovation. Thanks to their collaboration, our university lives up to the highest standards in research internationally. The quality of their cooperation adds to the overall value of our university, contributing to its reputation worldwide.

My special thanks go to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for supporting our long-term work with research alumni and for showing us and other universities in Germany the importance of cultivating active networks of knowledge for the global future of science.

Wolfgang A. Herrmann
President
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Dear research alumni of the Technische Universität München,

As President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, it is my pleasure to address you in the context of this brochure and to express my pride and joy that you have chosen to be “once a guest, always a friend” – primarily of the Technische Universität München, but, I would like to add, also of Germany as a whole.

Most of you know the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation as an organization that has promoted international scientific collaborations by granting fellowships and awards for the last six decades. Every year, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation enables more than 2,000 researchers from all over the world to spend time researching in Germany. The Foundation maintains a network of well over 26,000 Humboldtians from all disciplines in more than 130 countries worldwide – including 50 Nobel Prize winners. Presently, 24 Humboldtians are carrying out research stays at the Technische Universität München.
With this as a background, we have taken on the additional task of supporting research alumni work at German universities: We see tremendous untapped potential in this field and are convinced that the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation can make a contribution towards further establishing research alumni work in Germany. It is our belief that alumni relations are a long-term project that needs to happen at various levels – you can be alumni of more than one organization.

Supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research under the frame of the initiative “International Research Marketing”, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has launched several competitions inviting universities and research institutions in Germany to develop strategies for reaching out to their research alumni. The Technische Universität München is among the winning institutions. I am glad to see that through our initiative we have been able to support the Technische Universität München in taking their research alumni work to yet another level.

Alumni relations are successful if you create win-win-situations for internationally active scientists and scholars in an atmosphere of trust: The researchers presented in this brochure are ample proof of this. Alumni relations need to be prepared from the moment a researcher enters Germany and ideally experiences what we like to call a “culture of welcome”. The situation has improved in this regard, but is still far from ideal. As Alexander von Humboldt Foundation we actively strive to establish such a “culture of welcome” through activities like the “Award for the Friendliest Immigration Office”, the competition “Welcome Centres” and our current work on “Research Alumni Strategies”. Whether you choose to actually remain in touch as alumni after your stay has ended will depend to a high degree on what your experiences were during your stay in Germany.

We hope that you will be able to continue your successful collaborations – and that you as research alumni will take on the job of inspiring a next generation of scientists and scholars to consider Germany as a place for excellent research.

President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
Introduction

Having a lively university community with students, researchers and alumni is one of the basic assets of a modern educational institution nowadays. The university is a network, its members are its knots and hubs. If we imagine the university as a building, alumni can be seen as the windows that connect this building to the outside world.

Networks are neither single places nor fixed structures, but systems of relations. They are mobile and constantly changing. They are quintessentially dynamic, and depend on interaction for survival. Often they are not even visible, they ‘fill in’ the gaps between existing institutional structures and thus enable their dynamic development through ‘soft’ human factors.

This is how we at TUM understand and live our university network, bringing together the TUM family across professional fields and scientific disciplines, national borders and age groups. And, in particular, this is how we understand the role of our research alumni, former guest scientists of our university. They are no longer physically present at TUM, yet they are still part of the TUM family.

“Research alumni are part of our TUM family.”
A host university is like a ‘home’, a second ‘alma mater’ for a guest researcher – at least for the duration of her or his stay. Every university or research institution where a researcher has worked is part of her/his academic profile. It is the goal of TUM to continue to be part of their research alumni’s biography in the form of an active, vital lifelong partner.

The importance of research alumni

During the course of the past few years, TUM has consistently worked at creating a strong alumni culture, in a way that has few parallels in the German university landscape. For an entrepreneurial university such as ours, alumni are essential ‘transmission channels’ between the intellectual advancements achieved within its walls and their practical implementation in the outside world. In addition, TUM has pursued an overarching internationalization strategy over the last decade, leading to excellent results in terms of exchange agreements, research collaborations and resultant outputs. Our university stands today as an extremely dynamic, tightly networked institution, no less attractive for many top-level scientists than its competitors in other excellent institutions around the world.

We want this trend to continue, and we want to expand relations with our international partners even further. Visiting scientists are at the core of TUM’s pursuit of excellence through innovation. Once they have left our university, they become major partners in the global research market and knowledge network in their role as research alumni. For this reason, our university is determined to stay in touch with them after their time in Munich.

Staying in contact

Good ideas need to stand the reality test and go along with current trends. Increasing mobility is one of these trends, and an indisputable fact in science today. This trend brings some important changes in the relationship between researchers and research institutions. Scientists today have multiple affiliations, and work on an intermediary level between networks of institutions. The strength of a university must be to use this potential offered by its far-reaching contacts to its scientists both past and present for its own knowledge network. A good university today not only needs to hire the best as permanent staff, but also to
attract outstanding scientists from abroad for a longer guest residency and to cultivate long-lasting relationships with them after they leave. For this reason, we encourage every researcher who has been at TUM in the past – whether as a visitor or on the permanent staff, as a PhD student or senior professor – to take part in our network, share knowledge with its members and maintain contact with our university. Besides, we invite our research alumni to get informed about current developments at our university and explore what it has to offer them and other researchers they may know. Indeed, TUM has undergone many innovative changes in the last years, which are potentially of great interest for our partners abroad. A research collaboration or visit sometime in the past should therefore not be seen as a closed chapter, but rather as the precondition for easily resuming contact and maybe initiating new collaborations.

**Offers for international guests**

Maintaining good relations with research alumni is merely the continuation of the good relationship established during their guest stay. For this reason, we strive to provide our visiting scientists with the very best conditions – not only on a research level, but also in terms of preparation and support for their life in Munich. In the first part of this brochure we have accordingly listed a selection of offers for international scientists at our university. The Welcome Center and the Dual Career Office are just two examples of this. That the guest researchers’ relationship with TUM does not end with their guest stay, however, is testified by the “Mentoring for Scientists” program, connecting research alumni abroad with young researchers at TUM. This international pact of generations best represents our understanding of the TUM Network.

Of course, there is much more at TUM for scientists than what readers will find in the following pages. It would be a daunting enterprise to list the offers, opportunities and developments at the level of faculties, departments, institutes, laboratories, clusters – all of which contribute to the unique all-round profile of our university. The offers listed in the following pages are intended to give a representative overview of the institutional framework that contributes towards making a research stay at our university a pleasant, productive and successful experience. That this is the case for most of our international researchers is backed up by the number of flattering statements made by our research alumni about their sojourn and the impressions they gained at TUM, as quoted in the profiles section of this brochure.

“We strive to provide our visiting scientists with the very best conditions.”
The TUM research alumni network

The researchers portrayed in this brochure have been the first ones to accept our invitation to build up a research alumni group as part of our TUM network. Without them and the other guest researchers who have visited us in the past, TUM would not be the place that it is today. We at TUM invest in individuals with the passion to develop their talents, the freedom to transcend the boundaries between scientific disciplines and the courage to create new connections in knowledge and technology. The TUM Institute for Advanced Study, our fellow-driven center of excellence, demonstrates this in an exemplary manner.

Research alumni are also the best possible ‘ambassadors’ of TUM abroad. In recognition of this fact, on December 1, 2013, a selection of research alumni from our university were awarded the honorary title of “TUM Ambassador” - the very first time that this title has been conferred. The 12 researchers who received this award have distinguished themselves in the past not only through their outstanding research work, but also through the quality of their relationship to and collaboration with our institution. The “TUM Ambassador” award symbolically represents the role of all TUM research alumni worldwide.

We hope that more and more researchers will be attracted by our efforts, maintain and/or resume their contact to TUM and join our TUM Network. In this way, they would contribute to our culture of partnership beyond institutional and national borders.

Whether you are a recurrent visitor or a former guest from many years ago, keep a finger on the pulse of TUM, find out about the services and opportunities it offers and make contact with our university and its network members.

Welcome (back) to TUM!

Wolfgang A. Herrmann
President
Welcome to TUM: Offers for Scientists
Your Stay at TUM: Our Support for You

TUM offers excellent working conditions to visiting researchers from around the world. Our service-oriented offices provide a whole range of services to you, our international guests – researchers, professors, lecturers, PhD students and postdocs. This is meant to help you pursue your talents and passions by allowing you to focus on the important things and enabling you to research unhindered and intensively. Whether it is an application for research funding, the clarification of legal aspects with regards to research projects, or support in finding childcare, the administrators in the various offices will support you in the most committed and competent way. In the following chapter we have listed a selection of these offers for our international scientists.

Further information on all services of TUM for scientists is to be found on the internet:

► Welcome to TUM!
   For a comprehensive overview of all offers available to visiting researchers: www.researcher.international.tum.de/en

► Guide to Services for Scientists
   The following link will take you to the “Guide to Services for Scientists” containing important information on research funding, junior scientist programs and various TUM services for researchers, which you can download as a PDF: www.alumni.tum.de/en/research-alumni
TUM Faculty Tenure Track

The TUM Faculty Tenure Track offers promising young scientists from around the world attractive career perspectives: Highly qualified candidates are initially appointed as assistant professors (W2) with prospects for performance-based advancement to a permanent professorship (associate professor, W3) within a few years. With further research achievements at the highest international level, this path can finally lead to promotion to a chair position (full professor). TUM plans to create 100 new tenure track professorships by 2020. This groundbreaking recruiting system aims at lowering the average age of first appointments, promoting young scientists' early independence and self-reliance, and increasing the proportion of female professors in our university. With the introduction of this new career model a short time ago, TUM has brought a paradigm shift in recruiting and career policies in the German university landscape.

Research alumni are the best partners for the promotion of this new recruiting tool within their institutions and environments, and can act as talent scouts for suited TUM Tenure Track candidates.

Further information:
www.tum.de/die-tum/arbeiten-an-der-tum/tum-faculty-tenure-track

Contact
Recruiting Office

Email: braeunig@zv.tum.de
Phone: +49.89.289.22261

Address:
Arcisstr. 21/I
80333 München
TUM.Family Welcome Center

The Welcome Center assists international researchers, professors, lecturers and postdocs with relocation and integration at TUM and in the Munich area. The center provides advice and support on such practical issues as visa and residence permit, insurance and taxes, housing and house-hunting. Social integration is facilitated by welcome events, a cultural program and a Spouse Service with regular gatherings and excursions for international researchers, their spouses or life partners, families and friends. The close connection to the colleagues in charge of “Family Services” ensures professional advice regarding child care options and schooling for accompanying kids.

The Welcome Center is the main door to life at TUM and in the Munich area for all visiting scientists and their families, and accompanies their stay with all-round services and an array of recreational offers.

Further information:
www.researcher.international.tum.de/en

Contact
TUM.Family Welcome Center for International Researchers

Email: heinzmannk@zv.tum.de
Phone: +49.89.289.22266

Address:
Augustenstr. 46
80333 München

Mailing Address:
Arcisstr. 21
80333 München
TUM ForTe & TUM Talent Factory

TUM ForTe is the Office for Research and Innovation at TUM. It advises researchers on issues related to patenting and marketing of their research findings. Furthermore it informs and practically supports scientists in raising third party funding at both the national and international level. As part of ForTe, the TUM Talent Factory functions as the contact point for junior researchers at TUM. It supports research associates, graduates admitted for habilitation and junior research leaders in Germany and abroad during the advancement of their career at TUM. In this way, the provided services accommodate all stages of a postdoctoral career. Twice a year, TUM Talent Factory furthermore organizes the “Research Opportunities Week”. Up to 50 postdocs from around the world are selected to take part in this fully financed program, which allows them to get to know staff and explore research facilities at TUM for a whole week. The most promising participants are offered a TUM University Foundation Fellowship to spend one year as a postdoc at TUM.

TUM particularly welcomes applications for the “Research Opportunities Week” from postdoctoral researchers recommended by research alumni.

Further information:
www.forte.tum.de/en/tum-forte-home
www.tum.de/en/research/postdocs/research-opportunities-week

Contact
TUM ForTe - Office for Research and Innovation
Email: forte@zv.tum.de
Phone: +49.89.289.25245

TUM Talent Factory - point of contact for young researchers
(Dr. Christiane Haupt)
Email: haupt@zv.tum.de
Phone: +49.89.289.25235

Address:
Arcisstr. 21
80333 München
TUM Graduate School

The TUM Graduate School (TUM-GS) is the all-encompassing organizational body for doctoral research at TUM. From 2014 all new doctoral candidates are automatically members of the TUM Graduate School and will fulfill a minimum membership requirement of 2 years in the TUM-GS and a basic qualification program. Together with its Faculty Graduate Centers and interdisciplinary thematic Graduate Centers the TUM Graduate School supports doctoral candidates in their research work. In collaboration with institutions of the TUM, the TUM-GS ensures the high quality of doctoral projects and promote transferable skills which are becoming increasingly important. In this way the TUM Graduate School provides its doctoral candidates with the best preparation for leading positions in science, industry and society. Through structural elements regulated in the supervision agreement, a tailor-made qualification program, individual mentoring, international research phase, subject-related consultation as well as gender and diversity services, the TUM Graduate School adds value to every doctoral project and assists the doctoral candidates in successfully completing their doctoral degree in good time.

TUM particularly welcomes applications from young researchers recommended by research alumni.

Further information: www.gs.tum.de/en

Contact
TUM Graduate School

Email: info@gs.tum.de
Phone: +49.89.289.10600

Address:
Boltzmannstr. 1
85748 Garching
The central goal of the TUM Institute for Advanced Study (TUM-IAS) is to establish new fields of excellence in scientific and technological research at TUM. In particular, TUM-IAS has a special interest in innovative, “high-risk, high-reward” topics. It aims at creating an optimal research environment at TUM in which new ideas can flourish without being hindered by administrative burdens. TUM-IAS’ strategy is to enable not only selected guest scientists (from both academia and industry) but also our best faculty members to conduct top-level research, while offering early-career scientists the chance to develop their talents in an inspiring environment fostered by outstanding senior scientists.

The main program at TUM-IAS is the Fellowship program: Fellows at different career stages are given the possibility to devote their time to innovative and interdisciplinary research projects in nascent areas of science that promise major scientific breakthroughs.

TUM encourages research alumni and potential candidates meeting the TUM-IAS requirements to apply for the fellowships.

Further information:
www.tum-ias.de
Munich Dual Career Office

The Munich Dual Career Office (MDCO) focuses on the life partners of top-level scientists of the Technische Universität München and of the participating network partners. It provides a comprehensive palette of professionally supplied services. The MDCO supports Dual Career Partners to establish a professional network, develop strategies together to look for career opportunities and provide assistance during the job application procedure.

Beyond that, the MDCO offers competent advice on issues such as relocation, public authorities, access to further education, language courses as well as on cultural and social opportunities.

Further information:
www.dualcareer.tum.de/en/mdco-home

Contact
Munich Dual Career Office

Email: dualcareer@zv.tum.de
Phone: +49.89.289.25233

Address:
Augustenstr. 46
80333 München

Mailing Address:
Arcisstr. 21
80333 München
Staying in Contact:
The TUM Network for Research Alumni
From the very first day at our university the international researchers are a constitutive part of the TUM family and they remain as alumni an important asset for the network of our university. The TUM Network thrives on the lively exchange between disciplines and generations, enabling alumni and members of the university to come into contact and stay in touch across regions and professions. More than 50,000 alumni in 134 countries have registered up to now. For the research alumni the network functions both as contact point and place of interaction between them and current international researchers on the one hand, TUM as a whole on the other hand. The TUM offers all its alumni a wide range of services, some of which you find listed below. Here you can see everything at a glance: www.alumni.tum.de/en/research-alumni

- **Alumni Magazine “KontakTUM” and TUM Science Magazine “Faszination Forschung”**
  All alumni can receive our biannual magazines by mail on request. Faszination Forschung is in English, the alumni magazine is bilingual (German/English) and also available as epub in a full English version: www.alumni.tum.de/en/epub

- **Calendar of Events “Zurück zum Campus!”**
  The extensive program of events for our alumni: www.alumni.tum.de/en/events

- **Email-Newsletters: “KontakTUM News” and the “Newsletter for your Career”**
  The first one gives an overview of upcoming events for international alumni, the second one informs about career services for the TUM network. Subscribe per email: alumni@tum.de

- **Career Service**
  The Career Service provides information on job applications and career planning, organizes a program of career events (including online webinars), offers career advisory services (also available online as chat and electronic CV-check) and publishes the “Handbuch für Ihre Karriere“ as well as a “Career Guide“ in English. www.career.tum.de/en

- **TUM Recruiting Portal**
  Here www.tum.de/en/jobs you will find current job openings at TUM. In addition, the recruiting portal www.tum.de/jobboerse offers about 2,500 job openings in companies and research institutions.

- **Vivat TUM**
  Every year on the first weekend of Advent all alumni are invited to a concert in the Philharmonic Hall in Munich: www.alumni.tum.de/en/events/vivat-tum-concert
TUM Research Alumni Network

Percentage distribution of members per world regions and hosting faculties (see page 58 ff.)

North America: 31%

Architecture: 31%
Center of Life and Food Sciences Weihenstephan: 9%
Chemistry: 6%
Civil, Geo and Environmental Engineering: 12%
Electrical Engineering and Information Technology: 21%
Informatics: 14%
Mathematics: 14%
Mechanical Engineering: 29%
Medicine: 21%
Physics: 14%
TUM School of Management: 14%

Latin America: 4%
Percentage distribution of members per world regions and hosting faculties

- Eastern Europe and Russia: 10%
- Western Europe: 16%
- Asia: 28%
- Africa and Middle East: 9%
- Oceania: 2%

TUM Research Alumni Network
Special Offers for TUM Research Alumni

TUM invites all its former and current guest researchers to become part of the TUM Network and to join the community of TUM Research Alumni that was launched in 2013. Some of the network activities specifically conceived for research alumni and realized through their involvement are listed in this chapter. For a regularly updated overview, please go to: www.alumni.tum.de/en/research-alumni

The very first research alumni who joined the TUM Research Alumni during the last months are presented in the Research Alumni Gallery online and in this brochure. They come from all over the world and represent a broad spectrum of the research areas covered at TUM. Have a look, register online or contact us directly!

Alumni & Career
Email: alumni@tum.de
Phone: +49.89.289.22605
Address: Gabelsbergerstraße 39, 80333 München

Research Alumni Gallery
Through the “TUM Research Alumni Gallery” guest researchers can create their own profile online and remain visible as an integral part of the TUM scientific community even after they leave our university. The profiles show the researchers’ current position, research interests, the dates of their research stay and the contact details of their TUM host. The forthcoming updated version of the gallery also lists the current research projects as well as the main awards, distinctions and fellowships acquired by our research alumni. In this way the research alumni will keep TUM and its members informed about their research work and career development, and become visible for other members of the network.
For more information: www.alumni.tum.de/en/research-alumni-gallery

News for Research Alumni
Keeping our research alumni informed about what is happening at TUM is one of our foremost priorities. We keep our former international guests consistently updated about current developments and opportunities at our university. We provide research alumni at different stages of their career with targeted information by email about open positions, fellowships and grants, as well as research news and special offers for international scientists. By keeping in touch, the latter will get a direct line to TUM and be the first to know everything that is worth knowing and relevant for them.
TUM also regards its former guests as valuable ‘multiplicators’ of information and as partners in talent scouting. ‘Senior’ research alumni are therefore particularly invited to spread the information provided by us in the spirit of cooperation with TUM for talent recruitment.
You can subscribe to the newsletter per email: alumni@tum.de
Christopher Stapleton
Research Affiliate, University of Central Florida, and President, Simiosys Real World Laboratory, TUM Research Alumni and Mentor

“I always enjoy coming back.”
TUM Science Club: 
Your Home at TUM and on TUMnet

International researchers visiting the TUM play an active part in shaping the TUM Science Club – regardless of whether they are still at TUM or have become alumni somewhere abroad. The Science Club has initiated several series of events, such as the panel discussion “Best Places for Researchers“, in which experienced international scientists discuss about differences and characteristics of academic systems, scientific institutions and national research policies around the globe. Top-level scientists from several research fields give a personal account of what prompted them to conduct research, to make discoveries and devise concepts and systems for a better future in the exclusive series: “Science Fiction: TUM Research Alumni Talk about their Visions for the Future”. In addition, the first “Research Alumni Forum” was held in 2013. On this occasion former guest researchers were invited back to TUM and had the opportunity to get in touch and interact with up-and-coming scientists of the university. This form of cooperation will be further pursued and consolidated through the involvement of selected research alumni in the forth-coming “TUM Postdoc Days” in July 2014.

For more information: www.alumni.tum.de/en/science-club

The Research Alumni on TUMnet

The online networking platform TUMnet Community launched its test phase in March 2014. The TUMnet Community is a virtual social media platform on which institutions, interest lobbies and groups of alumni are represented. TUMnet reflects the ‘real’ community of people who are or have been at TUM, enabling them to get in touch, interact and collaborate ‘under the umbrella’ of our university. The virtual character of the platform is underpinned by the manifold actual contacts and connections that have developed at and around our university. The advantage of TUMnet as related to other social media is that it is tailor-made to the specific needs and wishes of TUM members and is accessible exclusively to them. Its users are moreover protected against the misuse of personal data, the overflow of information, contact requests and commercial advertising that they may experience elsewhere.

Research alumni may use TUMnet to communicate with each other as well as with other TUM members (students, scientists and alumni), to discuss specific topics within their fields of interest or to insert and access news items or tips on “What’s on”. The research alumni community on TUMnet profits from the various technical possibilities offered by this new social media platform: Decision-making, exchanging ideas, event planning or (just) live chatting, getting to know potential collaborators and friends are made easy within this user-friendly, secure space reserved for the members of our university.

For more information: www.alumni.tum.de/en/networking/tumnet
**Take part:**
**Mentoring for Scientists**

The TUM Network thrives on the lively exchange between different generations. This is particularly true for researchers, and the Mentoring for Scientists program testifies to it. The latter arranges for research alumni and international guest scientists of TUM to advise young researchers of our university at the doctoral and post-doctoral level. Highly motivated Master's students who are interested in science can also take part in the program. Its focus is not so much on the research projects in the relevant sectors (although this might also be true in individual cases), but rather on science as a profession, especially on the broader implications of being a scientist in today’s global society and economy and the importance of its international and interdisciplinary orientation. To open up international networks beyond the confines of the university and a specific field for the young scientists is one of the aims of this program.

The potential benefits for the mentees are therefore manifold. Getting in touch with experienced scientists from all around the world offers them the opportunity to make new contacts, discuss questions related to their personal and intellectual development and broaden their professional horizon. The mentors, however, also can profit considerably from the program, practising advisory skills and cultivating a lively relation with TUM and Germany by supporting a new generation of researchers. Both mentees and mentors build bridges internationally, expand their personal networks and benefit from both personal and cultural enrichment.

The mentoring works over long distances, on site in Munich, or as a combination of both, depending on the situation of the persons involved. Other mentoring combinations are also on offer alongside the core program. International researchers at all career levels who currently find themselves in Munich can apply as mentees and be put in touch with a Munich-based mentor from an appropriate area of industry and society. Research mentors, on the other hand, can also be involved in the program on a short-term basis as career advisors for junior researchers, for the purpose of knowledge exchange and support in personal decision-making.

For more information:
[www.mentoring.tum.de/en/mentoring-for-scientists](http://www.mentoring.tum.de/en/mentoring-for-scientists)

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Photo on the right: Mentor Amaresh Chakrabarti (Professor at the Centre for Product Design and Manufacturing of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore) together with Mentee Paul Bockelmann (PhD Candidate, Institute for Carbon Composites, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, TUM).
I get a lot of support from Professor Chakrabarti. This gives me a feeling about how to do science properly and helps me reflect on my own path as a researcher.
What I saw and learned at TUM was extremely useful for my future research.

Hisami Yamanaka-Okumura
Assistant Professor, University of Tokushima, and TUM Research Alumni
Partners of Preference and TUM Ambassadors

Research alumni willing to actively support TUM can become Partners of Preference of our university abroad. This involves acting as a contact person for TUM members (for instance visiting researchers) and research alumni in one’s own country and/or institution for questions related to such topics as the local research/academic system, opportunities and possible collaborations, relocation and social integration. Partners of Preference are also encouraged to disseminate information about research developments and opportunities at TUM at the doctoral, postdoctoral and tenure-track level, getting support and material from TUM as requested. Finally, they also act as ‘talent scouts’ and advisors of potential candidates for research opportunities and openings at TUM.

A selection of research alumni with an excellent scientific curriculum, an interest in research policies and the willingness to cooperate with our institution is elected each year to be awarded the honorary title of TUM Ambassador. The awardees represent role models and act as promoters for our university abroad. The prestigious distinction was conferred for the very first time by the President of TUM during an official ceremony in the Philharmonic Hall of Munich on December 1, 2013 on the occasion of the “Vivat TUM” concert. This exclusive event, bringing together the TUM family of professors, freshmen, students, alumni and other members and friends of our university, takes place every year on the first Sunday in Advent to celebrate and to honor the alumni of our university. The 12 researchers who received the award 2013 have distinguished themselves in the past through their outstanding research work and the quality of their relationship to and collaboration with our institution.

During the 1st Research Alumni Forum of TUM “Once a Guest, Forever a Friend” the Ambassadors were engaged in intense discussions with the President and the Vice Presidents on such issues as research opportunities for young scientist, postdoctoral fellows and junior professors at TUM, the new TUM Faculty Tenure Track system, internationalization strategies, research cooperation programs as well as the manifold international networks in which the university is involved. Moreover, the Ambassadors met junior researchers at the doctoral and postdoctoral level to talk about challenges and opportunities of career paths in science. On the last evening they discussed their ideas on the impact of science on society in the first round of the public lecture series ‘Science Fiction: TUM Research Ambassadors talk about their Visions for the Future’. The TUM Ambassadors were keen to support TUM’s global network, spot talents worldwide and advise young TUM scientists as they make their way into the international arena. Whether as mentors in the Mentoring for Scientists program, advisors or contact points for TUM and its members in their countries and home institutions, the Ambassadors are the living proof of the lasting connection and productive cooperation that TUM entertains with its research alumni worldwide.
TUM Ambassadors: 12 Portraits
Thanks to the Humboldt-Stiftung, a truly outstanding and unique organization, my research stay at TUM was a great experience, from both the scientific and cultural points of view.
Pierre Braunstein
CNRS Research Director, University of Strasbourg-Center national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Strasbourg, France

Stays at TUM

Hosts
Prof. Dr. Ernst O. Fischer, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang A. Herrmann

Research Interests
Fundamental and applied molecular chemistry, creation of new chemical bonds (metal-metal), of new complex molecules, elaboration of concepts rationalizing structure reactivity relationships and applications in homogeneous catalysis, nanomaterials from molecular precursors and applications in heterogeneous catalysis, synthesis and complexation of polytopic functional ligands, functional N-heterocyclic carbenes and their complexes for catalytic applications, new organic molecules with delocalized π system (quinoids) and applications in chemistry and physics, chemistry of functional enolates and their metal complexes, synthesis and reactivity of bimetallic silyl complexes, molecular clusters

Awards / Honors (Selection)
Member of Evaluation Group, Excellence Initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the German Research Foundation (2012), Descartes-Huygens Prize, Dutch Academy of Sciences (2008), Honorary Professor, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China (2006), Member of the French Academy of Sciences (2005), Member of the National German Academy Leopoldina (2005), Chini Memorial Lecture (2003), Nyholm Medal and Lecture (2003), Humboldt Research Award (1987)

"From the scientific perspective, working in the lab of Professor Ernst Otto Fischer, who had received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry shortly before my post-doc stay, was a unique opportunity to be exposed to the forefront of organometallic chemistry. I was the first foreigner to work on the recent metal carbyne complexes, a very exciting challenge. Of course, the outstanding personality and charisma of Prof. E. O. Fischer had a major and long-lasting impact on anyone who had a chance to meet and work with him. I became friends with a number of German chemists who subsequently occupied academic positions in various German and non-German universities. I have lively memories of a most stimulating scientific environment, to meet so many people, many of them became colleagues, the visits to the ‘Alte Pinakothek’, the ‘Biergarten-Kultur’ and the opportunity to learn German, although this may not be ‘Hochdeutsch’."