

TUM Master's Days - Introduction to the Master's Program

AgriFood Economics, Policy and Regulation

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Disclaimer: All information in this presentation has been compiled to the best of my knowledge and is current at the time of presentation. Changes at a later date cannot be ruled out.



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TUM has earned the prestigious title of German University of Excellence three consecutive times.



A Leader in Academic Rankings

QS World University Rankings 2025-2026

No. **1** 
in Germany

 No. **22**
in the world

THE World University Rankings 2025

No. **1** 
in Germany

 No. **26**
in the world

Shanghai World University Ranking 2024

No. **2** 
in Germany

 No. **47**
in the world

TUM School of Life Sciences



Campus Weihenstephan

Facts and Figures

(Statistics 12/2024)

 **3**
Research Departments

~100
Professorships

 **4**
TUM Technology Core Facilities

 **32%**
Female Professors

 **1**
CRC

 **More than 4,600**
Students

 **12**
ERC Grants

 **More than 1,000**
Doctoral students

 **1**
ERC Grants

 **More than 1,000**
Doctoral students

Background

Complexity of modern agri-food systems...

...characterized by numerous **trade-offs between sustainability dimensions**,

such as those between stable and regional production of healthy and affordable food, securing farmer livelihoods, contribution to and consequences of climate change, animal welfare, and biodiversity loss,

...characterized by use of **modern technology and new technology** developments,

such as digitalization, genetic engineering, or pesticides, paired with a certain level of technology aversion in today's society,

...characterized by a **high and increasing level of internationalization**,

internationally integrated markets with multicultural business partners, common agricultural policy that needs to harmonize interests across countries.



Qualification

Objective is to train sector experts, who:

- ... **understand the complexity** of modern agri-food systems and the manifold interactions between the economic, ecologic, societal, and political dimensions, with **profound knowledge on economic, political, technological, and ecological principles**,
- ... can apply their interdisciplinary knowledge acquired during the program to contribute as **analysts and problem-solvers** to tackling real-world agri-food-related challenges,
- ... have extensive **scientific competencies** to transfer new research findings into practice by evaluating findings and incorporate them into their decision-making,
- ... can **effectively communicate** with all relevant stakeholders in a constructive and competent way and are able to lead and contribute to **multidisciplinary** teams, working with people from **different cultural backgrounds**.

Target groups

Primary target groups of the degree program are graduate students from **agricultural sciences, economics and management, political sciences.**



Qualified applicants have to demonstrate a minimum level of **knowledge in economics, natural sciences, and policy.**

They need to provide proof of sufficient **English language** skills.

The program pursues a **high level of supervision**, e.g., in the interdisciplinary research project module. Given the limited teaching resources in the faculties, a **cohort size of no more than 50 students** per year is targeted.

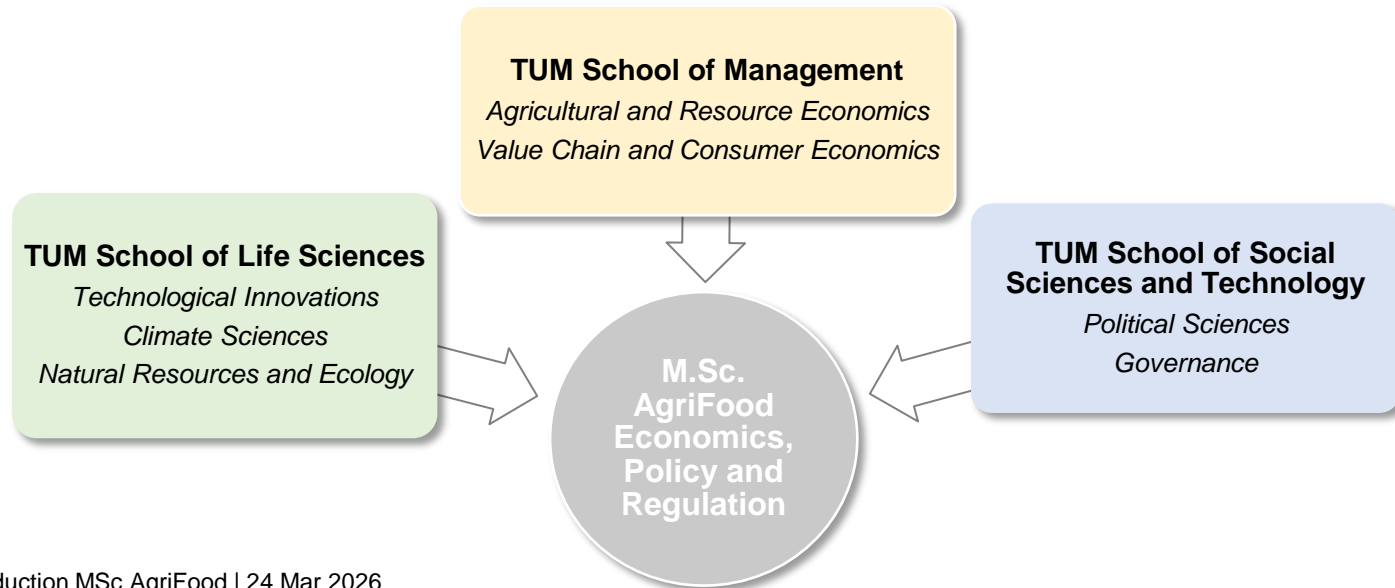
Master AgriFood – key facts



- Launched in 2024
- **Course duration:** 4 semesters / 2 years (120 ECTS), max. duration: 6 semesters
- **Master of Science** degree
- **Language of instruction:** English
- **Main location of courses:** TUM School of Life Sciences, Campus Weihenstephan (Freising)
Depending on your individual choice, some courses may also be held on the Munich campus.

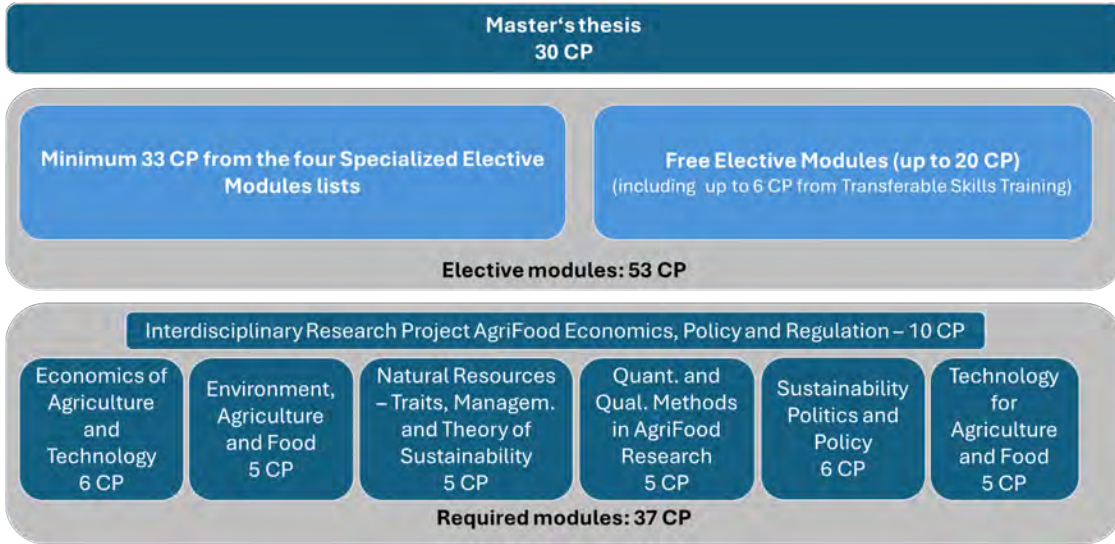
Three TUM Schools contributing

The master's program **AgriFood Economics, Policy and Regulation** combines competencies from the fields of → **agricultural and horticultural sciences** (natural sciences and technology), → **economics**, and → **political science**, and uses the expertise of three TUM schools:



Program structure and contents

For details, see the AgriFood [module catalog](#)



- > Required Modules
- ∨ Elective Modules
 - ∨ **Specialized Elective Modules**
 - > (Agricultural) Economics
 - > Governance, Political Sciences, Sociology
 - > Climate Sciences, Resources, Ecology
 - > Technological Innovations
 - > Free Elective Modules
- > Master's Thesis

- In each → Specialized Elective Modules list, there are 5-18 modules among which you can choose.
- Both a disciplinary, area-specific depth and an interdisciplinary profile formation are individually possible.

AgriFood – sample curriculum

Mandatory modules: 37 CP
Electives: min. 53 CP
Master's thesis: 30 CP

- **Teaching modes:**
lectures, seminars, exercises
- **Exam formats:**
written/oral exams, project work, report, research paper, learning portfolio, presentations

Semester	Modules						Credits
1.	MGT001416 Economics of Agriculture and Technology (required) K 6 CP	SOT86611 Sustainability Politics and Policy (required) LP 6 CP	WZ1821 Natural Resources – Traits, Management and Theory of Sustainability (required) K 5 CP	LS10017 Technology for Agriculture and Food (required) K 5 CP	MGT001417 Quantitative and Qualitative Methods in AgriFood Research (required) K 5 CP	LS Interdisciplinary Qualification (elective) 3 CP	6 30
2.	MGT001418 Interdisciplinary Research Project Agri-Food Economics, Policy and Regulation (required) W 10 CP		LS / WI / SOT Elective Modules (elective) Modules of at least 53 CP must be completed from the following elective areas: 1. (Agricultural) Economics 2. Governance, Political Sciences and Sociology 3. Climate Sciences, Resources and Ecology 4. Technological Innovations In addition, up to 6 CP may be selected from the SoLS "Transferable Skills Training" Area. 20 CP				30
	LS / WI / SOT Elective Modules (elective) (Designs see above) 10 CP		LS / WI / SOT Elective Modules (elective) (Designs see above) 20 CP				30
4.	LS10018 Master's Thesis (required) W 30 CP						30
Key	dark blue = final thesis blue = elective modules grey = required modules			CP = credit points; K = written exam; M = oral exam; LP = learning portfolio; PRA = presentation; B = report; PJ = project work; W = research paper			



Four specialized elective subject areas

(Agricultural) Economics

- Advanced Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
- Consumer Behaviour
- Economics of Water Use, Regulation and Markets
- Entrepreneurship in Life Sciences
- Food Economics
- The Economics of Firm Competition
- Value Chain Economics
- ... and many other modules

Governance, Political Sciences, Sociology

- Civil Society and Technological Change
- Environment and Climate Transformation
- European and Global Governance
- International Commodity Markets and Trade Policy
- International Development, Poverty and Inequality
- Political Regimes and the Economy
- ... and many other modules

Climate Sciences, Resources, Ecology

- Advanced Seminar Energy Markets
- Climate Change – Science, Impacts and Adaptation, Mitigation
- Climate Change Economics
- Emission Control in Land-Use and Animal Husbandry
- Sustainability Assessment of Agri-Food Supply Chains
- Urban Agriculture
- ... and other modules

Technological Innovations

- Perspectives of Genetic Engineering in Agriculture
- Plant Biotechnology
- Precision Agriculture
- Reproductive Biotechnology of Farm Animals
- Robotics and Automation in Agriculture

Free Elective Modules

- Methodological competencies (e.g., programming, data science skills)
- Interdisciplinary qualifications (e.g., language courses, soft skills)

Potential working fields of graduates

International organizations and NGOs active in the Agri-Food sector,

such as EU agencies, FAO, World Bank, or industry associations (e.g., for analyses and advisory work in the form of policy and economic analysis, public relations and representation of interests),

Activities in **national and regional ministries and associated authorities**,

(e.g., strategy development and design of public funding, public relations on rural development and agricultural and food policy issues),

Regulatory authorities at national and international levels,

such as EFSA (e.g., analysis and advisory activities as well as outreach activities taking into account policy requirements).

Potential working fields of graduates (II)

(International) **Sustainability management and corporate social responsibility**, in the food processing or consulting industry

e.g., strategy development and cross-cutting tasks to improve operational sustainability performance and to implement new regulatory requirements, public relations and representation in committees and associations,

Media and communication sector,

e.g., analysis and documentation of social conflicts in the field of agriculture, nutrition, and natural resources,

Research activities in the academic sector (universities, colleges) and public research (regional and governmental research institutes),

in various disciplines, including agricultural sciences, natural sciences, social sciences, economics, management, and law.

Timeline and requirements for admission

Winter semester 2026/27: lectures start 12 October 2026 ([Semester dates and deadlines](#))

[Application website](#) open from 01 January – **31 May 2026** (apply as early as possible)

Admission Requirements

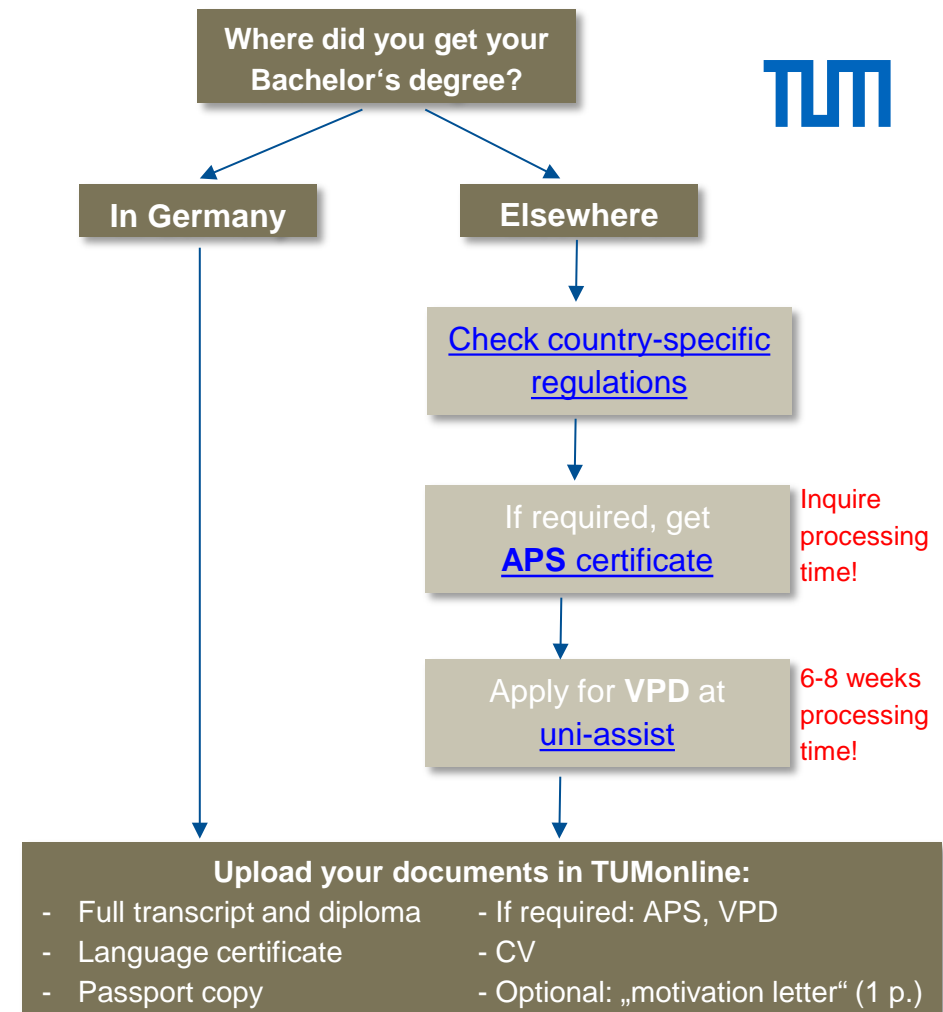
1. Bachelor's degree in [Agricultural or Horticultural Sciences, Political Sciences, Economics or Business Administration](#), or a [comparable degree program](#) (! Bachelor's must be finished at time of application)
2. [Adequate knowledge of the English language](#); students whose native language or language of instruction is not English must submit one of the accepted [language certificates](#)
3. Passing the [Aptitude Assessment](#).

Details on the application process: [Program website](#) (→ How do you apply...), [TUM general information](#)

How to apply

- Documents will be checked by TUM-CST only once you have uploaded all necessary documents. **Apply as early as possible, latest by 31 May.**
- Check your applicant account and emails regularly! If documents are not ok, there is a remark on what is not ok. Submit the correct documents within the stated deadline.
- **Stage 1 of the aptitude assessment:** attend the [mandatory online aptitude test](#)
11 June 2026, 2:00 p.m. CEST
- **Stage 2:** If you were not directly rejected in stage 1, but did not pass stage 1, you have to go through an interview.

! Check for possible [visa regulations](#) that apply to you.

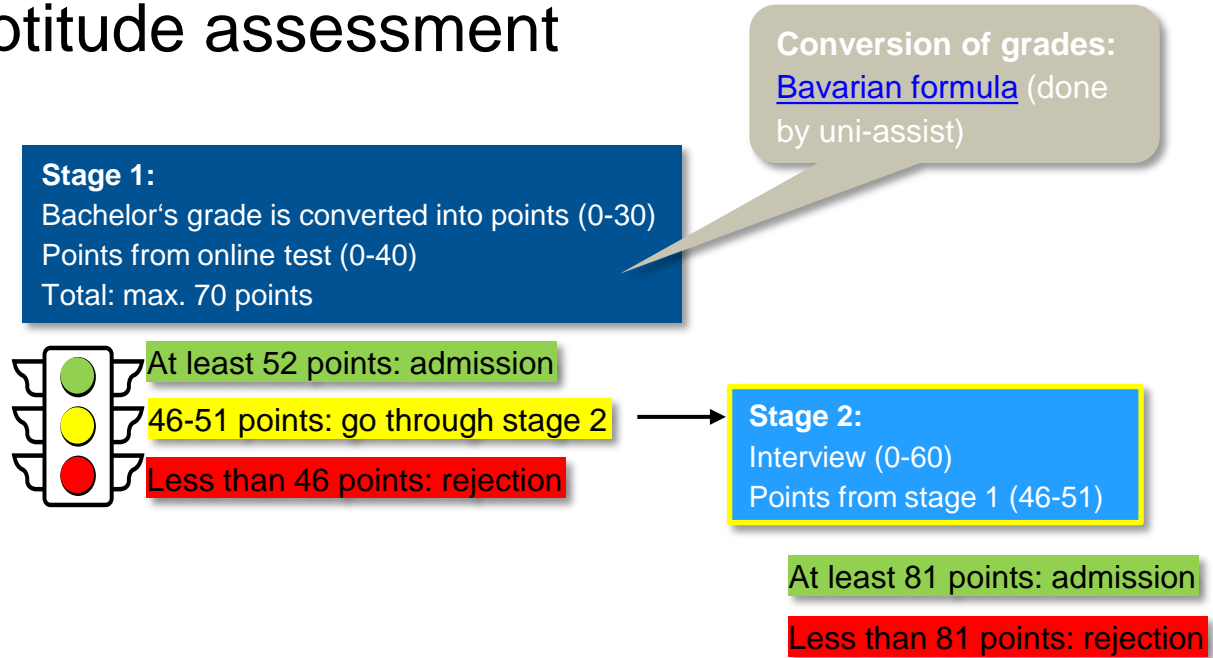


Master AgriFood – aptitude assessment

Aptitude assessment is a 2-stage procedure.

- **Stage 1:** Bachelor's grade + online aptitude assessment test
Test date this year:
11 June, 2 p.m. CEST
- **Stage 2:** interview (only if not already admitted or rejected in stage 1)

Application for the same degree program is only possible 2 times.



Master AgriFood – stage 1: online aptitude assessment test

Test date for 2026: 11 June, 2:00 p.m. (CEST) (Check here for date: <https://www.ls.tum.de/en/ls/studies/application/>)

Requires: stable internet connection, IP address must not change during session (public Wifi often problematic!)

Online test: multiple choice

- Invitation with instructions and access data comes at least 1 week before the test (including access to a testing platform for getting familiar with technical aspects)
- Three sections in the test (total max. 40 points):
 - general and interdisciplinary basic knowledge about the regional and global challenges faced in the agri-food sector (30%),
 - research methods and mathematical fundamentals (30%),
 - knowledge of the fields of agricultural economics, economic relationships, and current political discussions (40%).



Master AgriFood – stage 2: interview

Interviews: take place end of June until beginning/mid of August

- 20-30 minutes via Teams with 2 interviewers
- Invitation for interview comes at least 1 week before the assigned interview slot
- Applicants must adhere to the scheduled interview date



Aspects that are assessed in the interview:

- motivation (max. 10 points)
 - ability to communicate in English (max. 10 points)
 - General and interdisciplinary basic knowledge with regard to the regional and global challenges faced in the agri-food sector + demonstration of previous subject-specific knowledge + exposition of a research project (e.g. the final thesis) from the first-degree program (max. 40 points)
- Total points: points from 1st stage + points from 2nd stage; Admission with 81 or more points

→ Outcome (admission/rejection) is usually communicated within 3-4 working days.



Master AgriFood – how to apply?

Websites with important information:

- **How to apply for AgriFood?** <https://www.ls.tum.de/en/ls/studies/courses-and-programs/agrifood-economics-policy-and-regulation-msc/>
- How to apply for a master's degree at TUM: <https://www.tum.de/en/studies/application/master/application-master>
- Country-specific regulations: <https://www.tum.de/en/studies/application/application-info-portal/special-conditions-for-certain-countries>
- APS certificate: <https://www.tum.de/en/studies/application/application-info-portal/aps>
- VPD / uni-assist: <https://www.tum.de/en/studies/application/application-info-portal/uni-assist>
- Language certificates: <https://www.tum.de/en/studies/application/application-info-portal/admission-requirements/language-certificates>
- Glossary of documents: <https://www.tum.de/en/studies/application/application-info-portal/glossary-of-documents>
- FAQs TUM in general: <https://www.tum.de/en/studies/support-and-advice/faq>
- FAQs TUM School of Life Sciences: <https://www.ls.tum.de/en/ls/studies/faqs-about-studying/>

AgriFood degree program website

<https://www.ls.tum.de/en/ls/studies/courses-and-programs/agrifood-economics-policy-and-regulation-msc/>
 (scroll down a bit)

You will find there:

- Module catalog
- Curriculum
- Examination matters:
 - General Study Regulations at TUM („APSO“)
 - Specific AgriFood Examination Regulations („FPSO“)



AgriFood Economics, Policy and Regulation Master of Science (M.Sc.)

This is a three-year master's program in the interdisciplinary agricultural and food sector, where you will gain a deep understanding of the agricultural sector and its role in the economy, society and the environment. You will also gain a deep understanding of the international and national policy and regulatory framework of the agricultural sector and its role in the economy, society and the environment. The research program AgriFood Economics, Policy and Regulation offers a unique combination of disciplines which is highly relevant for the agricultural sector and its role in the economy, society and the environment.

[Learn more about the program](#)

Key Data	
Type of Study	Full Time
Expected Duration of Studies	3 Semesters
Faculty	LS AgriFood
Field of Study / Program	AgriFood Economics
Application Period	January 15, 2024 - May 15, 2024
Admission Category	AgriFood Economics for Masters
Language of Instruction	English
International	International (English)

Why do you want to study this program?

What are your career aspirations?

What career interests do you have to support?

What competencies and skills will you acquire?

How do you plan to finance your studies?

[Apply now](#)

Master AgriFood Economics, Policy and Regulation - what our students say

Understanding the agri-food sector from multiple perspectives
 This Master's program in AgriFood Economics, Policy and Regulation at TUM has been the perfect choice for me as it enables me to combine my interests in agriculture, economics, management, and politics. The program offers a unique combination of disciplines that provides a comprehensive understanding of the agricultural sector from multiple perspectives.

During my studies, I can combine my skills and interests in a broad range of disciplines, which makes me a versatile and competitive professional. I am looking forward to contributing to the agri-food sector's sustainable and responsible development.

[Read more about it](#)



Other degree programs that might also interest you:

- AgriFood Economics (M.Sc.)
- AgriFood Economics (M.Sc.)
- AgriFood Economics (M.Sc.)

TUM's agricultural activities are marking:

at TUM
 an excellent international level of research
 (QS World University Rankings 2024)

Study organization - with a plan through the Master's program

Degree program Administration, module catalog

Introduction

Examination matters

Research & Examination

Registration

Personal student advising

It's the best
 to have a personal advisor who can help you with your studies and provide you with the best possible support.

Everything you need to know!

Need general questions or advice for enrollment? Or how to apply? We have the answers for you.

How to apply
 How to apply for admission to the Master's program in AgriFood Economics, Policy and Regulation at TUM.

How to apply for admission to the Master's program in AgriFood Economics, Policy and Regulation at TUM.

TUM – semester fees and tuition fees

All TUM students have to pay a [semester fee](#) (currently 97 EUR, for the Studierendenwerk München).

[Tuition fees](#) apply to TUM students outside of the EU/EWR region (if Bachelor's degree was not obtained in Germany).

Use the [Tuition Navigator](#) to find out if you have to pay tuition fees:

Tuition Navigator: Are your studies subject to tuition fees?

For Master AgriFood:
4000 EUR per semester

What type of program are you applying for?

From the winter semester 2024/25, tuition fees for international students from third countries will only be charged for newly enrolled students in Bachelor's and Master's degree programs.

Please choose ... ▼

<https://www.tum.de/en/studies/fees/tuition>

TUM – tuition fees

<https://www.tum.de/en/studies/fees/tuition/scholarships-and-waivers>

What waiver scholarships, exemptions and waivers are available?

For questions about waivers etc. please contact

TUM Center for Study and Teaching Fees and Scholarships
studium@tum.de

Waiver Scholarships

Students may apply for merit scholarships and need-based waivers.

[More](#)

Exemption

Under certain circumstances, students are exempt from paying fees.

[More](#)

Waivers

Fees may be waived for financial, personal or social reasons.

[More](#)

→ Please check which option fits for you.

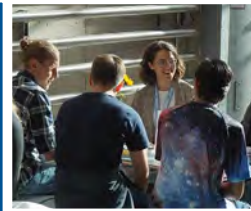
→ Check application deadlines (for some options, the deadline is already 31 May)

Other benefits at TUM – beyond your degree program

TUM Global & Alumni Office:
various exchange programs (EU, worldwide), alumni networks



TUM Language Center: many language courses (curr. 18), writing assistance



TUM Sports Center: enjoy a wide range of sports from A – Z



TUM Career Service: get ready for the (German) job market, career days, job portal, mentoring



TUM Student Clubs: numerous activities where you can engage



... and many more

Read stories from the worldwide TUM Community [here](#).

Misce - accommodation

- Finding a place to live is not so easy in the Greater Munich Area. It is the responsibility of the students to take care of their **accommodation**. The following TUM websites are helpful:
<https://www.tum.de/en/studies/during-your-studies/living-and-working>
<https://www.tum.de/en/studies/during-your-studies/living-and-working/accommodations>
- The majority of the **courses take place in the city of Freising** on the TUM campus Weihenstephan (about 40 km drive away from Munich, but easy to reach by train from Munich). Living in Freising is a little bit cheaper than in Munich, but in general, prices in the Greater Munich Area are rather high compared to other regions in Germany.
- Accommodation in the **student dormitory**:
If you want to apply for a room in the student dorm at the Munich Student Union (<https://www.studierendenwerk-muenchen-oberbayern.de/en/accommodation/>; <https://www.studierendenwerk-muenchen-oberbayern.de/en/accommodation/application/>), **do it soon (once you submit your TUM application), as room numbers are very limited.**



Thanks for attending!



Questions?