Virtual Research Opportunities Week 2021

FAQ

Last updated: January 31, 2021. This document is continuously updated.

Application Portal

Can I submit documents after the deadline?

No, you need to make sure that you submit your application until March 21, 2021; otherwise your application cannot be taken into consideration.

Can I update my application after the deadline e.g. add new publications?

For reasons of fairness additions or changes are not possible after the deadline.

How do I know that my application is complete?

You are unable to submit your application if you have not uploaded all required files.

Can I upload restricted PDF files?

Please upload PhD files without any restrictions, otherwise we will be unable to review them.

Who should I address my motivation letter so that my application is directed appropriately?

If you choose the format of an official letter (for your letter of motivation), you are welcome to address the Selection Board. Keep in mind that the letter must be written in English. Please also ensure that your letter of motivation can be understood by someone who is not an expert in your specific field of expertise. Make sure you address the required points (Why you choose TUM and the respective TUM professors with whom you intend to work).

Can I submit a reference/recommendation letter e.g. by my supervisor?

You do not need to submit a reference or recommendation letter. There is also no option to upload one in the application portal.

Host Professors

Whom can I mention as Professors I am interested in?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professor Type</th>
<th>Can I Mention (y/n)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Professors, Assistant and Tenure Track Professors</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>In case of doubt, compare with the list of TUM Professors as well as the TUM Junior Fellows. The list is very comprehensive, but a few professors may not have a profile yet. In case of doubt, please also check the website of a respective department or institute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUM Junior Fellows (Research Group Leaders at TUM)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired Professors/Honorary Professors/Professors Emeriti</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjunct Professorships/ Außerplanmäßige Professoren</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other researcher/postdoc at TUM</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How can I find out about the status of a professor?

Check if s/he is mentioned in the list of TUM Professors. In case of doubt, feel free to contact us before submitting your application. Particularly new professors at TUM might not have a profile immediately.

Should I contact the professors I name in advance?

Please refrain from contacting professors for your ROW application. You do not need to inform them that you list them in your application.

Eligibility Criteria

Can I apply for the Research Opportunities Week if I am working in Germany?

For 2021, an exception will be made: Researchers currently working in Germany (whether they are German or internationals) are also eligible to apply as they are currently also facing restrictions with regard to expanding their scientific network. Researchers who did their PhD at TUM or who are currently working at TUM are not eligible. This may be subject to change in future ROWs as the event primarily addresses researchers outside Germany.

I am already working at TUM, can I apply for the Research Opportunities Week?

No, in this case you are unfortunately not eligible to apply.

A professor at TUM has offered me a position which I will start before the Research Opportunities Week in April 2021. Can I still apply for the Research Opportunities Week?

No, in this case you are unfortunately not eligible to apply.

For how many years after finishing my PhD am I eligible to apply for ROW?

You can apply for ROW and afterwards for the TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship if you finished your PhD within the last three years. In this round, you are eligible if you completed your PhD after or on May 01, 2018. This refers to the date which is stated on your PhD certificate. If you have not completed your PhD yet, see below “Can I apply for the ROW if I haven’t finished my PhD yet?”

Please note that this is a fixed rule and cannot be waived as the ROW really aims at early-career postdocs.

I completed my PhD before May 01, 2018. Am I eligible to apply?

Unfortunately, you are not eligible for the event. The Research Opportunities Week aims at researchers who recently finished their PhD or are about to finish it, so we cannot make exceptions from the three-year rule.

Can I apply for the virtual Research Opportunities Week again if I already participated in the Research Opportunities Week in the past?

It is only possible to take part in the Research Opportunities Week once, after that you are no longer eligible.

I applied for the Research Opportunities Week in the past, but I was (a) not selected or (b) I was selected but unable to attend. Am I eligible to apply again?

If you haven’t taken part in the Research Opportunities Week in the past, you are welcome to reapply. This includes researchers who were not selected as well as those who were selected but had to cancel their participation for one or the other reason – also long as you meet the application requirements.
Can I apply for the ROW if I haven’t finished my PhD yet?

Yes, you are eligible, but you need to submit a letter from your supervisor that confirms that you will finish your PhD within the next 12 months. It is sufficient if you finish your PhD within the next 12 months calculated from the ROW date (April 2021).

Be aware that any TUM Global Postdoc Fellow needs to have his/her PhD title and submit the official certificate before being able to start the Fellowship.

If you will not be able to finish your PhD within the next 12 months, you are currently not eligible to apply. We recommend to watch out for future ROWs.

Language-related questions

Do I need to speak German to join TUM or participate in the Research Opportunities Week?

No, you do not need to be able to speak German in most fields at TUM – except if your research requires you to know German.

My PhD certificate is in Spanish/Portuguese/English/French. Do I need to have a translation?

In this case, we ask you to add an English translation, but it is not mandatory.

My PhD certificate is in Arabic/Russian/Korean/Mandarin. Do I need to have a translation?

For any language which does not use the Roman alphabet, please add a translation in English.

All other documents need to be written in or translated into English since not all members of the Selection Committee speak German.

Can I submit my application in German?

Since not all members of the Selection Committee speak German, please make sure all relevant documents are in English.

Selection of the Participants

How many participants will be invited?

This year, the number of participants is not fixed. All applicants whose application are recommended by the Selection Committee will be invited.

Is the number of publications a strict criterion for a successful application?

There is no requirement to have a certain amount of publications before applying for the ROW. However, depending on the research area the Selection Committee might look at your track record to assess your scientific excellence. The members are of course aware that the situation and standards vary for different fields.

When will I be informed about the results?

We will inform everyone until March 26, 2021.

It is already end of March and I did not hear back from TUM.

We get back to every applicant who submitted an application by email. However, in rare cases, emails which we send via our portal do not reach applicants. Please also log in to the portal and check in the activity stream whether you have received a message there. If you do not hear from us, please send us an email.
Questions regarding Participation

If I am invited to participate, what are the next steps?

You need to confirm your participation in the event and might need to sign up for specific workshops. You may also need to create a profile in the tool used for the Career Opportunities Fair. You do not need to prepare anything for the week.

What happens if I am selected, but not able to attend the event?

Please make sure you let us know if you are unable to attend the ROW in order to cancel your participation.

Are there any costs involved in participating in the ROW?

The event is free of charge for everyone selected to participate.

Which tools will be used for the virtual event?

Various workshops will be offered via Zoom Webinar. The Career Opportunities Fair will be conducted via a professional online platform.

I will not be able to join for the entire week, is it possible to attend just some parts of the program?

As the participants are in very different time zones, we will offer the main information events twice and we will allocate various slots at the Career Opportunities Fair. We strongly recommend that you attend all sessions to make the most of the week. However, there is no obligation to attend all sessions.

Will the professors I name in my application take part in the Career Opportunities Fair?

The TUM Board of Management has invited all TUM professors to join the fair. However, it is up to the professors if they or some of their team members join the fair. We will provide you with a brochure beforehand so that you can see which chairs, institutes and project will be present at the fair. Please note that the participation may be subject to changes.

Contact

TUM Talent Factory
Organisation: Dr. Pauline Popp, Dr. Neele Meyer
Christina Rothenhäusler; Dr. Judith Rodriguez

Contact us via: postdoc-application@tum.de
Website: https://www.tum.de/en/row/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/TUMPostdoc