

European Talent Academy 2024

for independent research fellows and newly appointed lecturers

Call to participate in EU networking and training opportunity with Imperial College London (Imperial) and Politecnico di Milano (PoliMi)

Climate, energy and mobility for a Sustainable Society

Application deadline: 28 January 2024, 23:59 CET

This programme provides early career researchers at TUM, Imperial and PoliMi working in one or more of the following areas **climate, energy or mobility for a sustainable society** the opportunity to meet each other across disciplines. They can form international research connections and get to participate in a series of online and in-person training sessions, focused on both individual career development (e.g. abstract and impact, proposal writing) and collaborative research skills (e.g. understanding EU research funding and policy landscapes). The programme also aims to help researchers engage in interdisciplinary project teams and develop proposals for further research collaboration.

Applicants who are within 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD* from engineering, natural sciences, medicine and/or business who are working on topics that fit into the larger theme of climate, energy or mobility for a sustainable society are encouraged to apply.

Participation offers the opportunity to:

- Connect with other TUM, Imperial and PoliMi researchers working in complementary research areas and form important networks for future collaboration.
- Attend trainings and gain information about research funding available to support research collaborations.
- Get insights into accessing funding to support your career and your research goals
- Increase your visibility and your networks
- Seed potential Horizon Europe and other funding proposals.

Up to 7-8 TUM participants will be selected for this programme to participate with Imperial and PoliMi counterparts. TUM will pay for travel, meals and accommodation (according to [TUM travel guidelines](#)) for TUM participants to attend in-person workshops and research visits. 500 € per TUM researcher is allocated for the in-person exploratory research visits, for use within TUM travel guidelines. TUM, Imperial and PoliMi are all contributing equally to the costs of delivering the training and networking sessions, both online and in-person.

Background

Starting from 2020/21 TUM launched the European Talent Academy – Previous themes were the EU Green Deal, Trustworthy AI, and Lifelong Health.

[Imperial and TUM are connected through a strategic partnership since 2018. TUM and PoliMi formed a strategic partnership in 2022.](#) As entrepreneurial universities focused on science and technology and with strong connections to industry, the three universities are well positioned to collaborate. All three universities are committed to supporting early career researchers in establishing EU networks for research and innovation.

Theme for 2024

To guarantee that the participants have a thematic research link and that the presented funding instruments are tailored to their needs and interests, the European Talent Academy will be based on an annual challenge / topic. This also will give the possibility to integrate matchmaking sessions at the end of the Talent Academy to explore collaboration and joint projects.

The theme for 2024 is: “**Climate, energy and mobility for a sustainable society**”. Eligible researchers working on these topics from any disciplinary area are encouraged to apply. At TUM, this means we welcome applications from across all our schools, as long as the research connects to the programme’s theme.

Key words: climate science and solutions, energy supply, energy systems and grids, buildings and industrial facilities in energy transition, communities and cities, industrial competitiveness in transport, clean, safe and accessible transport and mobility, smart mobility, energy storage, climate change, economy, batteries, hydrogen, citizen engagement, carbon capture and storage, greenhouse gas emissions, long-term energy storage, digitalisation, passenger and goods transport, cities, renewable energy, circular economy, climate neutral economy, sustainable economy, climate sciences, Earth, nature, climate change impacts on health, sustainable lifestyles, sustainable resources for a health environment.

Programme and Timeline

The programme takes place February - October 2024. Participants must commit to attending all of the **following online and in-person mandatory sessions**, which are:

- **27 February;** 10h-13h (CET) - Virtual – **Online introduction**
- **8 March;** 10h-12h30 (CET) - Virtual – **Storytelling workshop**
- **19-20 March – In Person Kick off London** - Networking and finding collaborators
- **April/May/June** (dates TBC) – Virtual workshops (Abstract&Impact; Idea project clinic)
- **26-28 June – In Person retreat in Milano** - Project Development
- **June/July** (dates TBC) – Virtual session(s) Project Idea Review clinic
- **22-24 October – Closing session in Munich** - Impact and Dissemination

In addition to the above required modules:

- participants will be offered the opportunity to visit potential colleagues and partners immediately after the Kick off session in London within TUM travel guidelines. 500 € per TUM researcher is allocated for the in-person exploratory research visits, for use within the [TUM travel guidelines](#).
- participants will be offered optional virtual training sessions. A minimum of 5 participants will need to register for an optional session for us to run them. Optional sessions will be detailed after participant selection.

Who is Eligible?

- **Applicants must be within 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD*.**

*These periods exclude any career break, for example due to:

- family care
- health reasons
- reasons related to COVID-19 such as home schooling or increased teaching load.
- The applicants' research must connect to the theme for this year.
- Applicants must follow the participant commitment and be open to exploring EU research collaboration and funding opportunities.
- Applicants should ideally discuss their intent to participate in this programme with their research leads or line managers.
- In case the applicant is not formally employed by TUM (e.g. fellowship), please contact us before your application via brussels@tum.de

Mandatory Participant Commitment

As the three university partners invest significant funding and staff time to this competitive programme to support early career researchers, all researchers who apply to the programme must agree to the following should they be selected:

- To ensure at the time of application availability on the mandatory session dates (both in-person and online); commit to joining these sessions for the duration of the programme.
- To bring an enthusiasm for meeting and engaging with other researchers and establishing relationships.
- To prepare and submit any necessary pitch or other materials in advance of training and networking sessions.
- To discuss participation in the programme with your line manager to ensure support for your participation in the programme.
- To engage with other researchers to develop initial ideas for collaborative research projects.
- To be available to host researchers from other institutions in your lab/facilities.
- To be proactive and invest time to work collaboratively and create new research proposals / papers / research outcomes.
- To produce interim / final reports to the programme team.
- To provide feedback on the programme that we can use to improve it.

When the programme ends:

- As alumni of the programme, to act as an ambassadors & mentors for the programme to help us promote the programme to others, so more people might benefit from the opportunity.
- To periodically engage with new participants and other alumni e.g. in alumni gatherings, funding networking sessions, and similar.

How to Apply?

Apply by the **deadline of 28 January 2024** by submitting your [online application form](#).