GERMAN UNIVERSITIES OF TECHNOLOGY

Press Release

Technical University of Darmstadt (as part of the Rhine-Main-Universities Alliance) receives funding as University of Excellence

6 TU9 Universities among the 15 Universities of Excellence in Germany

Berlin, October 2, 2026

As part of the German federal and state governments' Excellence Strategy, five additional locations were today included in the "Universities of Excellence" funding program, among them one more TU9 University: With the Technical University of Darmstadt (as part of the Rhine-Main Universities Alliance), alongside RWTH Aachen, TU Berlin (as part of the Berlin University Alliance), TUD Dresden University of Technology, KIT, and TU Munich there are now 6 TU9 Universities among Germany's 15 Universities of Excellence.

"The successful application as University of Excellence submitted by Technical University of Darmstadt, part of the RMU consortium, reflects the research strength of the TU9 Universities. As President of the TU9 Alliance and Rector of the TU Dresden, I extend my warmest congratulations to my colleagues in Darmstadt on this success and welcome them to the ranks of the Universities of Excellence. The TU9 Universities combine world-class international research – one in three clusters of excellence is based at a TU9 University – with practical application. They serve as engines of innovation within and beyond their regions and are of enormous importance for the future of Germany as a center of science and business. The award in the Excellence Strategy Competition underscores this once again," says Prof. Dr. Ursula M. Staudinger.

Technical University of Darmstadt, as part of the RMU consortium with Goethe University Frankfurt and Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, convinced the selection committee with its proposal "EXCITE – Excellent. Collaborative. Transformative". Universities that had previously secured at least two Clusters of Excellence, and university consortia that had previously secured at least three, were eligible to apply for this funding line under the Excellence Strategy. A total of eleven new applications were submitted in autumn 2025.

At a press conference in Bonn, Federal Minister of Research, Technology, and Space Dorothee Bär, in her capacity as chair of the Joint Science Conference (GWK), together with Lower Saxony's Minister for Science and Culture and GWK Deputy Chair Falko Mohrs, announced the selection of the new Universities of Excellence. In the subsequent expert panel, both explained the commission's decision in together with Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wick, Chair of the German Science and Humanities Council; Prof. Dr. Katja Becker, President of the German Research Foundation (DFG); and Prof. Dr. Peter Wagner, ICREA Research Professor of Social Sciences at the University of Barcelona.

Since 2020, RWTH Aachen University, Technische Universität Berlin (as part of the Berlin University Alliance), TUD Dresden University of Technology, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), and Technical University of Munich have been receiving funding as "Universities of Excellence". In 2026, following a review after seven years, they received a positive evaluation and will therefore continue to be funded during the new funding phase from 2027 to 2033. The decision in the evaluation process for the "Universities of Excellence" funding program was announced on March 11, 2026.

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About TU9

TU9 is the Alliance of leading Universities of Technology in Germany: RWTH Aachen University, Technische Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Technical University of Darmstadt, TUD Dresden University of Technology, Leibniz University Hannover, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Technical University of Munich, and University of Stuttgart.

TU9 Universities take special responsibility for the productive and innovative strength of our society and economy. We help shape the future by contributing to digitization and the energy and sustainability transition, to name a few. To this end, we combine our specific expertise in basic research, especially in the natural sciences and engineering, with applied research and innovation. TU9 Universities enjoy an outstanding reputation around the world as renowned research and teaching institutions. As such, they train exceptional young academics for careers in science, business, and administration and assume social responsibility. TU9 Universities foster top-class international networks and diverse cooperation with industry, making them a key element of Germany as a location of science & innovation.