Background Information

University of Technology Nuremberg: A New World of Study, Research and Teaching is Taking Shape – Emphasis on Digitalization

The University of Technology Nuremberg was founded on January 1st, 2021 and has been the first new foundation of a state-run university in Bavaria since 1978. With its consistently interdisciplinary approach, an innovative spectrum of subjects, new teaching methods and a future-oriented organizational structure, a model university will be created in the higher education landscape of Bavaria.

The University of Technology Nuremberg (short: UTN) offers the possibility to completely re-think the concept of a university. The idea is to create a model university. New ground shall be broken not only regarding research and teaching, but also as regards its structure and administration. The academic profile of the University of Technology Nuremberg shall be shaped by future-oriented engineering sciences, complemented by courses of study in the fields of natural and social sciences, as well as humanities. Upon completion, up to 6,000 young people will be able to study on an urban campus, which is embedded in the surrounding quarters and which combines study, teaching and living.

Concept: Interdisciplinary, International, Digital

The characteristic feature of the University of Technology Nuremberg is its interdisciplinary, international and digital approach right from the start. It is this interdisciplinary approach which has an impact on teaching, studying and research at this university. It is one of the major aims of the University of Technology Nuremberg to interlink engineering sciences with other topics of society. For this reason, the new university offers not only engineering and technical sciences, but also humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences – and combines them with one another. To put it simply: every student of the University of Technology Nuremberg will also study humanities and social sciences to a certain degree – a modern approach which is still not widely established in Germany.

The interdisciplinary approach is also reflected by the fact that the university is not structured in faculties as usual. Based on international standards, the university has adopted a department structure instead, which is complemented by so-called fields of activity which put teaching contents in relation with specific topics from society and digitalization. Pursuant to its international approach, most of the courses are held in English. The digital approach of this educational institution is reflected in corresponding teaching methods, equipment and teaching and research focus areas. Another characteristic of the new university is a good student-teacher ratio – envisaged is a student-teacher ratio of 1: (up to) 30.

Campus: Interlinked, Sustainable, Urban

The building site for the new campus is situated on Brunecker Straße in the southern part of Nuremberg. Where the former southern railway station was located, an area of 37 hectares is available for construction. Key factors in the awarding of the campus's structural and framework planning were topics such as mobility, climate neutrality, sustainability, energy, nature and species conservation, as well as urban spatial aspects.

The unanimously selected winning design was submitted by the team surrounding Ferdinand Heide Architekten/TOPOS and impressed the committee with its simplicity and distinctiveness. The individual construction sites of each department are grouped around a green center, so that metaphorically all departments find their place around a table as equals. This metaphor serves best to describe the role of the campus as the creator of a common identity.

The construction site borders the neighboring quarter, recently named Lichtenreuth, which is also under development, making the University of Technology Nuremberg a campus university situated in a direct urban environment. The ground-breaking ceremony took place in August 2021, followed by the laying of the foundation stone for the first building, "Cube One," in November 2022, which was officially opened in October 2024. Cube One will primarily house the founding presidency, the administration, and various central facilities. With a usable area of 2,500 square meters, the building accommodates around 120 people. The previously used spaces in the "The Plant" complex on Ulmenstraße will continue to be used for research and teaching.

Establishing Teaching and Research

On 1 January 2022, the Executive Board was expanded to include the then founding President Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Hans Jürgen Prömel and Kanzler Dr. Markus Zanner by Prof. Dr. Isa Jahnke, Founding Vice President for Studies, Teaching and International

Affairs. Her main focus is on the development of a structure for digital teaching and learning. In addition, Prof. Dr. Alexander Martin was appointed Founding Vice President for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship on 1 April 2023. After three years of successful founding and development work, there was a change in the position of Founding President as part of the university's focus on AI: Prof. Dr. Michael Huth took over as Founding President on 1 October 2024.

The first department at the UTN - the Department of Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence - combines all technical and scientific disciplines. Prof. Dr. Wolfram Burgard took up his position as Founding Chair on February 1, 2022. In this role, he is building up the university's Department of Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence and, as Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, is setting an initial focus at UTN. The second department is called Liberal Arts & Social Sciences. This brings together the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics. Prof. Dr. Gyburg Uhlmann has headed the Department of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences since April 1, 2023. She is also Professor of Classical Philology with a focus on Greek Studies at UTN.

Outlook: three new departments

The Founding Steering Board of the UTN has approved the development of three new departments until 2030:

- “Department of Biological Engineering”
- “Department of Mechatronic Engineering”
- “Department of Natural Sciences”