



**ÖH-WAHLPROGRAMM 2023**  
**JUNOS STUDIERENDE**  
**TU WIEN**

# 1 A sustainable and social university

Studying is much more than taking exams and cramming maths formulas. Especially during the Corona crisis, it became clear that friendships, interdisciplinary exchanges and events play a crucial role in providing a fully-fledged university education that transcends the boundaries of the respective department.

## More workplaces in the library!

When once again there is no free study space in the library, one quickly asks oneself why in 2023 several floors and areas are filled with subject papers and articles. The library has rather become a place for learning and working through its digital offerings. Therefore, the open access area should be significantly reduced, since most students are only interested in a limited selection of books anyway. This would allow more space for work stations and adapt the library to contemporary conditions and the needs of the students. Corresponding journals and theses should be digitised and stored or removed in order to create more workstations.

At the TU, there are numerous computer labs or rooms in which old EDP devices are located. Today, the majority of students have sufficiently powerful laptops for most tasks. Where it makes sense, the rooms in question should be freed up and converted into learning spaces.

## Student café

Vending machine coffee and chocolate bars are available in the library for emergencies, but most faculties lack a student café that invites you to stay and exchange, but is also inexpensive. Therefore, we propose a café organised by students themselves, which should be as cost-saving as possible through self-service. The TU should provide the premises.

## Rest areas

Those who work also need breaks - however, there are no sufficient places of retreat and rest for this at the university. An area with sofas and resting possibilities should be set up especially near the library and other suitable locations at TU Wien.

## TU Clubs

They exist at all renowned universities in the world and thus also at TU Vienna: associations or clubs of students in which a specific project or undertaking is planned and implemented. Very good examples at TU Vienna are the Racing Team and the Space Team. They offer the opportunity to implement learned knowledge in a team and are also an excellent way to network or cooperate with companies and sponsors. International organisations, such as ESA, like to recruit students from such clubs or organise worldwide competitions - see Hyperloop Pod Competition.

We therefore call for the establishment of a TU Vienna funding office for student associations, which provides financial resources or premises for the implementation of projects. In addition, there needs to be a separate section on the TU Vienna website that provides an overview of all existing clubs at the TU Vienna to make it easier to apply and participate. For an appropriate visibility of various clubs and an opportunity for direct exchange, a separate presentation day, similar to the TU Job Fair, should be considered.

### **Studyability for all genders - promotion at school**

In order to enable fair and equitable access to studies for all genders, the TU Vienna should already provide insights into everyday student life at school. To this end, TU Vienna should particularly inspire female pupils to take up STEM subjects. This can be done, for example, through research scholarships for particularly outstanding students, or through intensified cooperation with schools. The TU Darmstadt, for example, already offers a wide range of possibilities here, and enables taster studies and internships for pupils. The focus should not only be on HTLs, as there is often already an uneven gender distribution here, but also on AHS, HLW and other types of schools. In order to inspire even younger pupils to take up STEM subjects, the Children's University of Technology offered by TU Wien in 2019 and 2020 should be revived and expanded.

### **Digital noticeboard**

Students should be informed about news and events at TU Vienna via a central digital notice board. Recurring circulars, which usually end up in the trash folder, will be reduced and replaced by corresponding publications on the digital notice board.

### **Introduction weeks - More time to arrive**

Especially at the beginning of your studies, it is important to build up a social environment during your studies. For this purpose, the study period in other countries begins two weeks earlier with introductory weeks. During these two weeks, clubs can introduce themselves and students are officially welcomed to the university.

At the TU Vienna, on the other hand, stress-free arrival is prevented from the very first week with cross tests. International students and students with no connection to Vienna are at a particular disadvantage here.

The TU Vienna should provide more support to student councils and other student organisations that strive to make it easier for new students to get started. This could look like the TU Vienna clarifying organisational matters early enough and contributing financially to events.

## **Sustainability in teaching, research and on site**

In view of the advancing climate crisis, TU Vienna must work even more intensively for sustainability and climate neutrality. This concerns not only sustainable building technology and infrastructure, but also the focus of research. In addition to subject-specific teaching content, the development of sustainability competencies is to be promoted holistically. For this purpose, the transfer of content from climate and environmental policy topics to technical thinking should be strengthened. The TU Vienna bears this responsibility both as an employer and as an educational institution for future generations.

## **Climate Neutral TU Vienna 2030**

The TU Vienna is to become climate-neutral by 2030. For this purpose, a corresponding roadmap is to be developed on how energy-intensive processes can be compensated for and how the use of buildings can succeed in a resource-saving manner. The public sector is to be won over for the implementation and planning of this project.

## **Mobility - By bike to the university locations**

In a dialogue with the City of Vienna, the TU Vienna should agree on how the TU Vienna locations can be better connected by a coherent bicycle network. In particular, this concerns the connection between Gusshaus Freihaus Getreidemarkt. Motorised individual transport at the main locations should no longer be promoted in the form of parking spaces. Bicycle garages and bicycle boxes are to be built at these locations so that bicycles can be parked safely. In addition, external locations should also preferably be reached by public transport.

## **A modern waste management for the TU!**

The TU Vienna is to develop a plan for reducing the waste produced internally and integrating it into a functioning circular economy. For this purpose, a concept is to be developed with the waste management department on how better waste separation and waste reduction can succeed.

## **Member of the Alliance of Sustainable Universities in Austria**

As the only one of the major Viennese universities, the TU Vienna is not yet part of the Alliance of Sustainable Universities in Austria. The Alliance sees itself as a networking initiative in the field of sustainability and is an association of 19 Austrian universities. In order to create synergies beyond university borders, the TU Vienna is to become part of this alliance.

## **Mental Health**

Studying is a wonderful experience, but especially with demanding and work-intensive studies, as is common at TU Vienna, many students get into stressful and burdensome situations that can lead to psychological suffering, among other things. We know from various surveys that over 50% of students are psychologically stressed. Too many students do not know that there is a free psychological student counselling service that can be contacted at any time. The hurdle to seeking help for psychological stress is already far too great. The offer must be actively communicated in order to really reach those who need it. We therefore demand that the offer of psychotherapy be expanded and that the costs incurred be covered. Regarding prevention, regular workshops and coaching sessions with mental health experts on topics such as exam nerves or social phobia are needed to make students mentally resilient.

## 2 International goes Normal

The international orientation of TU Vienna should become even stronger in the future. International dialogue and intercultural exchange represent both an individual enrichment for students, but also enable long-term international partnerships in research.

However, the conditions for internationally oriented studies are still inadequate at the TU and should be further developed for a sustainable university.

### Expansion of language courses

The language courses on offer do not meet student demand. Capacities should be significantly expanded. A good command of English is a basic requirement for engineers, as are good mathematical skills. Here, cooperation with the Language Centre of the University of Vienna is possible in order to expand the capacities for students of the TU Vienna.

### Expansion of university partnerships

Two university partnerships in the USA and none in African or Oriental countries represent an insufficient record. Especially technological and scientific cooperation with the countries of the Global South should be a goal of TU Vienna. Here, a dialogue at eye level must be strived for.

### Double degrees

The offer of double degrees is currently very limited and hardly noticed by students. One reason for this is the lack of visibility and the limited choices. In the USA, a double degree is currently not possible. In order to create diverse international career opportunities, a double degree is a very good possibility, as students can educate themselves interculturally and interdisciplinarily in this way. Therefore, double degrees should also be made possible to a large extent at the TU.

### International Industrial Engineering and International Business Informatics

Particularly for the two business-oriented degree programmes, it makes sense to integrate a full year abroad into the curriculum. In this case, students should be able to complete the course content at the partner universities to the same extent. One example of this is the TU Hamburg with its International Industrial Engineering degree programme. A fixed learning agreement between the universities should not only enable students to take free electives and transferable skills, but also focus on subject-specific studies.

## 3 Modern teaching

### Online readers instead of overpriced scripts

The purchase of lecture notes is not only a financial challenge for many students, but is also no longer up-to-date in times of digital learning. It is understandable that not all books and scripts can be made available as PDFs for copyright reasons. However, major publishers have long since found a solution to this. Password-protected e-books are just one example. Print formats of scripts and books must not be stuck to exclusively.

### Flipped Classroom

The use of teaching videos and online lectures can make on-site teaching much more active. Teachers should be encouraged to hold their classes according to the concept of the flipped classroom. This applies not only to the much smaller courses in the Master's programmes, but also to the courses in the Bachelor's programmes.

### Revise the registration system

It is certainly not an isolated case that exam and exercise registration depends on the speed of the internet connection. A registration system that is not only based on first-come-first serve should be introduced. To this end, it should be evaluated whether a points system or similar can enable fair and stress-free allocation. A registration system that is not only based on first-come-first serve should be introduced. For this purpose, it should be evaluated whether a point system or similar can enable a fair and stress-free allocation.

### Publish exam statistics

Graduation statistics not only serve to monitor personal performance, but also provide the opportunity to classify one's own academic achievements. Whether a 2.0 is a good grade or one is in the top percentile is currently neither internally nor externally apparent. Furthermore, we call for the publication of grade statistics per exam, while guaranteeing student data protection.

### Digitise lectures

Compulsory courses in the Bachelor's degree should be fully digitally accessible so that the materials can be acquired in self-study. This ensures better studyability in many ways. Furthermore, by integrating them into the MOOC system, a contribution can be made to cross-university education.

## **Don't slow students down any more, create more freedom!**

Individual subjects often lead to the standard period of study being significantly exceeded. This is caused, for example, by exercises with high failure rates that are only offered once a year. This costs students an unnecessary amount of time, which has to be spent waiting. The fact that a large proportion of students need 5 years for a Bachelor's degree does not show a lack of ambition on the part of the students, but rather insufficient support from the university. The relevant subjects should be identified in the individual fields of study and possibilities for improvement should be worked out.

Furthermore, we are critical of the chains of requirements that often have to be completed before taking an examination or participating in a course. Compulsory participation in weekly exercises with submissions represents an overburdening, especially if an exam on the semester material has to be taken at the end of the semester anyway. Students should be able to decide for themselves during the semester whether or not they want to take part in assignments. We therefore demand a system that relies on voluntariness instead of obligation.

## **Fast Track Doctoral Studies**

Students with above-average performance should be given the opportunity to begin a doctorate in parallel with their Master's degree. For this purpose, the university should award annual scholarships to support this project. Corresponding programmes already exist at other universities. The Philipps-Universität Marburg and the University of Hamburg can be cited as examples. This support is intended to enable outstanding personalities to enter academic research at an early stage.