



TU Dresden, 01062 Dresden
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. habil.
Stefan Odenbach
Dean of Studies Mechanical Engineering, Textile and Clothing Technology



Dresden, March 21, 2025

Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

I hope you have settled well into the lecture-free period and are able to enjoy the truly wonderful weather we're currently having. Why is there another email already on a Friday evening, just two weeks after the last one? Well, we are approaching the summer semester at full speed, and with that come several updates regarding the start of the semester:

- The OPAL course lists for the summer semester had already been published last time in the **Teaching in Mechanical Engineering** OPAL course (<https://tud.link/4ozj>). Now, the timetables for the summer semester are also finalized and can be accessed either via the OPAL course or directly at <https://tud.link/pfd4je>.
- At the beginning of next week, the **catalogs for the module groups** will be published at <https://tud.link/ls74>. Please make sure to check whether the subjects you intend to choose from the catalogs for a specific module are actually listed there. Requests for additions must be submitted in writing to the examination office **by April 11, 2025!**
- Also at the beginning of the week, the **updated study plans** will be published at <https://tud.link/tg3h>. Although they still need to be approved by the study commissions and the faculty council (with regard to module changes), the plans usually do not change further.
- For those studying **Materials Science**, the **Physics lab course** is scheduled in the second semester. Please make sure to enroll now in OPAL at <https://tud.link/tzpvb4> so that the group assignment can be organized and you can attend the introductory session.
- I'd also like to remind you once again that we are still looking for **tutors**. By "we," I mean both the faculty in general and, quite specifically, my own department for MAT2. Tutors are an essential part of successful teaching – so, **let's go: teaching is fun!!**

That's all the important announcements for this week, but before I close, I want to share one more point that I found in a message submitted through our **Kummerkasten**, which left me genuinely dismayed: A student from a – as she herself puts it – "non-STEM degree program" expressed concern about feeling devalued by students from our faculty, based on her field of study and academic path. She also mentioned that a graduate from our

Postal address (letters)

TU Dresden,
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
01062 Dresden

Visitor address

Helmholtzstrasse 5
Zeuner building



Access road
Side entrance
George-Bähr-Str. 3c

Internet

<http://tu-dresden.de/mw>
No access for electronically signed and encrypted documents.



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faculty reviewed her letter to me and confirmed the situation she described. I find that personally very upsetting. We are – and rightly so – proud to be a full university. This gives all of us the opportunity to broaden our horizons beyond our immediate academic field and to embrace education (which is, after all, the core mission of any university). This is an invaluable advantage that enriches not only your studies but your entire outlook on life. And I'm not just saying this: (a long time ago) I studied Experimental Phonetics as a non-physics minor at LMU in Munich. It was a tough challenge, and the transcription exams in the language lab were a real threat to my degree. And yes – it was unfamiliar to sit in a seminar discussing the very existence of language. Unfamiliar for the first two sessions, but then incredibly fascinating – and to this day, an experience I wouldn't want to miss. So, (a) a strong recommendation to make use of the opportunities a university offers in terms of broader education, and (b) a simple appeal to treat all fellow students with respect – regardless of what they study or what academic path they have chosen! Even if you don't want to attend courses outside of mechanical engineering yourself – just having a conversation with someone doing something completely different can be incredibly enriching.

This turned out longer than planned, but it's important to me: **Academic education clearly includes academic respect – for all fields!**

With that said, I wish you a few peaceful days, some time to recharge your batteries for the upcoming semester – perhaps with some good philosophical reading ...

Yours sincerely

Stefan Odenbach

