



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



Dresden, September 19, 2025

Dear Students of the Faculty of Mechanical Science and Engineering,

first of all, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the winter semester 2025/26. A very special welcome goes out to everyone who is beginning their studies in one of our diploma, bachelor's, master's, or advanced programs here at the Faculty of Mechanical Science and Engineering at TU Dresden. We in the faculty wish you a course of studies that is enjoyable, successful in every respect, and that helps you become excellent engineers capable of tackling the great challenges of our time!

So once again, very warmly:

Welcome to Mechanical Engineering
and
best wishes for a successful study experience!

A very important note in this context: please make sure to **use your TU Dresden email address** or **forward incoming messages to an address you check regularly** (and ensure that your mailbox can receive emails!). All current information will be sent to that address – it is the central communication channel for all matters related to your studies. The Examination Office, as well as I, will use it to inform you about important updates and deadlines. Please remember that not reading your emails does not exempt you from deadlines.

Now, let's move on to some important information and updates relevant for the start of the semester next week (some of which were already included in the last email, but not everyone received that one yet...):

- In the **OPAL course "Lehre im Maschinenwesen"** (<https://tud.link/4vkn>), you will find links to the **timetables**, and the **course list with all OPAL courses** has recently been updated. If you haven't yet enrolled in this course, you should do so — it provides an overview of all current teaching activities in Mechanical Engineering, including direct links to the OPAL courses.
- The updated catalogs for elective modules are available online at <https://tud.link/ls74>. Please note that **applications for catalog modules must be submitted no later**

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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than October 17, 2025! Check carefully whether the subjects you plan to take are included in the respective catalogs. If not, make sure to apply for inclusion in time!

- As usual at the beginning of the semester, some modules have been revised. The **updated study schedules** — already refreshed for orientation — can be viewed (even before final approval by the Study Commission and Faculty Council) at <https://tud.link/tg3h>. They will become officially valid after the Faculty Council's decision on October 22, 2025, but you can already use them as a reliable reference.
- One point I often mention in my evening emails, and which I also raised today during the welcome for first-semester students, concerns the **use of advisory services**: If you encounter any difficulties during your studies — exams that didn't go well, project work that isn't progressing smoothly, and so on — please seek advice early from the Examination Office and the Academic Advising Service. The sooner we identify and address problems, the easier they are to solve!
- And when I say "advice," I really mean **in-person consultation** — please use the office hours of the Examination Office:
Tuesdays: 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Thursdays: 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Many issues can be resolved within five minutes in person, whereas by email they often require dozens of messages and follow-ups.
- Finally, a note specifically for our first-semester students: The **Physics Laboratory Course** for students in Mechanical Engineering and Process/Natural Materials Engineering will begin in just a few days. If you haven't done so yet, please register for your lab group in the OPAL course (<https://tud.link/xdtcux>) by October 16, 2025, at the latest!

And now for the real highlight of this email: The **new Examination Office Bot**! It was actually supposed to be available for testing today — but we didn't quite make it. Starting (most likely) the week after next, we will use the latest advances in AI and large language models to provide you with individualized guidance on all study-related questions. Before we launch and begin testing, I have one question for you: **The bot** (a small linguistic note — it is grammatically correct in German to say *der Bot*, as there is no feminine form, according to ChatGPT as well — though this can be addressed through naming) **still needs a name!** Please send your suggestions to stefan.odenbach@tu-dresden.de, and we will vote on the name in the announcement email when the bot officially goes live.

That's all for now. Enjoy your weekend — and I wish you a great start to a successful semester!

Yours sincerely,

Stefan Odenbach