

## Press Release

### Continuity of our teaching and research mission is ensured

TU9 Universities focus on digital formats and flexible solutions to meet the needs of teaching and research activities in the summer semester 2020.

Berlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

TU9 Universities adhere to their plans to conduct the 2020 summer semester and the associated teaching activities – as far as possible it will be a regular and fully valid semester.

TU9 Universities are working continuously on expanding digital formats for the transformation of courses, seminars, lectures and examinations, considering the fact that many attendance courses cannot be replaced by digital formats and that alternative examination and degree options must be designed in a legally secure manner. For cases of hardship, especially among students, special regulations need to apply.

"In spite of the restrictions caused by the corona virus SARS-CoV-2, the summer semester cannot be a lost semester for students," says Prof. Ressel, TU9 President and Rector of the University of Stuttgart. "We are facing the current challenges head on and are working tirelessly with the support of the federal and state governments on sustainable solutions. The crisis caused by the coronavirus poses great challenges for social, economic, health and university systems worldwide. We are aware of our responsibility and we actively try to prevent a social and economic standstill. Our focus has not only a national, but an international perspective, taking into account the situation abroad, our global collaborations as well as international scientists and students.

Not only in times where social distancing becomes a commonplace word is digitalization one of the key issues – especially for a country like Germany as a location of science and innovation. The present challenges are also an opportunity to catch up and be prepared for what lies ahead in the hopefully near future after the corona crisis.

The development and implementation of new digital formats and offers for students, scientists and researchers and for the administration can only be met with enormous additional personnel and financial expenditure. Here, the universities are dependent on the support of the federal and state governments.

The health and wellbeing of all university members and slowing down the spread of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 have of course always the highest priority in all measures. Prof. Ressel emphasizes: "My sincere thanks go to the crisis management teams of the TU9 Universities as well as to all employees in research, teaching and administration of the TU9 Universities, who are currently engaged far beyond the normal level. A sincere thanks also goes to our numerous students who support their fellow students, their university, their neighbors and help those who are ill.

#### 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, Technische Universität Dresden, Leibniz University Hannover, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Technical University of Munich, and University of Stuttgart.

Tradition, excellence, and innovation are the hallmarks of TU9 Universities. Founded during the Industrial Age, they contributed decisively to technological progress back then and continue to do so today. They enjoy an outstanding



reputation around the world as renowned research and teaching institutions that promote the transfer of knowledge and technology between universities and practice. 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's position as a location of science and innovation.