



Speech by the Vice President of TU Braunschweig, Professor Tatjana Schneider, during the central reception of first-year students on 23 October 2023

Dear all,

I, too, would like to welcome you at TU Braunschweig!

Beginning your studies here, starting your university life here at TU Braunschweig marks a new chapter in your life. And, the time you will spend in this city and this university will profoundly influence you – and your journey ahead.

We are happy that you've chosen to join us and start that journey with us – one that will bring with it the acquisition of different knowledges, skills, tools, critical thinking – and so much more. There'll be plenty of new things to unlearn, plenty of things to learn, plenty of stuff that will challenge you – and I am pretty sure that you will challenge us in return.

We take great pride in this open and inquisitive spirit that permeates this University – regardless of the subject you've come to study – engineering or computer sciences, physics or architecture, biology or educational sciences, history or mathematics.

This mindset empowers us to face the massive global challenges that climate breakdown brings in order to work together, in and through strong alliances, networks and structures on social and technological advancement to address the challenges we all face.

I hope that at the end of your studies you will take this with you so that the tools you've learned to apply here, will continue to transform the world around you.

The beginning of term is always a special moment. And, let me tell you – it never stops being quite magical. I'm feverishly looking forward to this week at the end of October, when we start term in earnest.

Today, there's around 3,000 of you beginning a degree – many of you came from afar.

Approximately 20% of our entire student body is made up of international students, which is super as the different perspectives you all bring, the various learning cultures, the multiple scientific and cultural backgrounds enrich us all, help us learn and grow together.

Mutual respect is crucial here, something we strive by – hold us to this, as well as our wish to make a lasting positive impact.

There is real power that comes with this diversity – and we hope that you will all commit to working with us on the many subjects and the many topics – including the myriad of challenges that uneven development entails – that need diversity (of ideas, of minds, of perspectives) to truly progress.

You are therefore, not merely enrolling in a course at a university; you will quickly becoming a vital part of a dynamic community.

I can only encourage you to seize the possibilities and opportunities that our academic community offers: participate in campus events, immerse yourselves in initiatives, take the power to make an impact!

I will see you around!!!!