



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

Dear students,

My name is Knut Baumann, and I am the Vice President for Study & Teaching at Technische Universität Braunschweig. In the Executive Board of our university, I am responsible for the quality of our study programmes. But I also act as a bridge between the students and the university management. I am in close contact with our student representatives - the Student Parliament, the General Student Committee AStA, the student members of the University Senate and the student councils - in order to listen to your needs and wishes and to integrate them into the work of the university management.

In preparing the orientation phase for you, dear first year students, I have also had many coordination meetings with the student representatives who have put together a great programme for you! I would like to thank you, dear Student Councils and Student Representatives, from the bottom of my heart!

It is very important to us in the executive board of TU Braunschweig to understand you and to take up your impulses. With 16,000 people, you are the largest group at our university. Without students, there would be no university. So my advice to you is to get involved in student councils at different levels - in parliament, in the senate, in student councils or in student initiatives. Make your voices and ideas heard. Because we as a university are here to support you. We are at your side as a strong partner and mentor!

In order to improve your financial situation during your studies, many of you will be looking for mini-jobs. Our university offers excellent job opportunities for student assistants in a variety of areas - be it in institutes, faculties or in the central administration. This is a great opportunity to get your first taste of working life and to get to know the university and the academic world from the inside. Job offers can be found on the TU Braunschweig website. In addition, you can proactively inquire about vacancies in your institutes and faculties.

Dear students,

I am particularly moved to stand before you today. You are beginning your studies at a time when we are confronted daily with news of atrocities, wars and crises in our immediate environment. Part of your school years have been marked by the constraints of the pandemic.

Standing here in front of you, I often think back to when I started my studies. I can well imagine how you feel now.

I grew up during the Cold War. As a young person, you could feel the tension in the air with each new piece of news about nuclear armament. The only way to deal with this time of crisis was to focus on the here and now. We found distraction and fulfilment in the depth of knowledge and the warmth of our friendships. That would be my advice to you today: celebrate yourself and your life! Enjoy your studies as a voyage of discovery. Take advantage of the support that your TU Braunschweig can offer you for your personal development and your future professional success.

Good luck with your first steps and see you soon!