



# Guiding Principles Good Teaching

*What constitutes good studies and what does good teaching mean for the members of TU Dortmund University? These guiding principles are an approach to these questions and the result of a university-wide and interdisciplinary understanding. They are intended to provide the members and committees of TU Dortmund University with an ongoing reason to continue the discourse on good teaching and high-quality studies at the university. At the same time, the guiding principles depict the strategic development of TU Dortmund University for studying and teaching and serve as a guideline for the departments and institutions for the further development of their study, teaching and counselling offers.*

## Preamble

TU Dortmund University is a vibrant university that has been researching and shaping societal, social and technological change since its founding. Thus, TU Dortmund University regards it as its task to sustainably shape and further develop our livelihoods in a democratic and liberal society. Studying at TU Dortmund University prepares students to reflect on these processes of change, recognize challenges of the future and design solution perspectives.

## University education

**Good teaching enables education.** The members of TU Dortmund University are convinced that university education is and must be more than a result of pure knowledge transfer. For students, a degree program is a time of professional and personal identity formation. Students bring with them a curiosity for science and their respective subjects and take responsibility for shaping their own educational process. In the course of their studies, they develop a professional and scientific self-image and acquire professional and social skills through good teaching in different forms of teaching and learning. University education enables and motivates them to engage in lifelong learning and to shape social processes. It also prepares them for novel and as yet undeterminable challenges in and outside academia.

**University education is based on the unity of research and teaching.** Studies at TU Dortmund University aim at the acquisition of competencies in the critical application and generation of knowledge on the basis of the current state of research. Within the framework of research-oriented teaching, students learn to reflect on the possibilities and limits of scientific progress and understand how intra- and interdisciplinary knowledge gain can succeed. Good teaching inspires new scientific knowledge processes and at the same time forms an important basis for future research. In the course of their studies, students are introduced to the research processes of the respective disciplines. Research- and project-based teaching formats serve this purpose, as does the opportunity to work on concrete research projects. In this way, studying at TU Dortmund University also gives students the opportunity to independently pursue questions of knowledge and focus on their own major interests in their studies.

**TU Dortmund University is committed to the educational success of its students.** By completing a degree program, graduates of TU Dortmund University are prepared in the best possible way to assume professional responsibility in science, business, and society, both at home and abroad. Educational goals and successes are individual, multi-layered and not exclusively limited in time to the phase of study itself. As a university in the Ruhr Area, TU Dortmund University supports all students, regardless of their educational biographies and respective prerequisites, in gaining clarity about their educational and study goals and in realizing the successful completion of their degree programs. TU Dortmund University is committed to inclusion. It enables barrier-free participation in its degree programs and courses, offers differentiated information and counseling services, designs efficient and flexible degree program structures, and is particularly committed to a successful study entry phase.

**Education wins in a global perspective.** Education and teaching benefit from international exchange, which takes place in cooperations in research, teaching and learning. TU Dortmund University welcomes the cultural diversity on campus, which is reflected in the different origins and nationalities of its members, and promotes intercultural competencies throughout the university. It supports the development of international perspectives of students and faculty through a variety of opportunities for international exchange. By expanding its internationally oriented teaching and study offers, TU Dortmund University also increases its attractiveness for international students and faculty.

## University teaching

**Good teaching needs good teachers.** TU Dortmund University creates a vibrant culture of teaching and learning by researching and discussing good teaching, by respecting the freedom of academic teaching, and by valuing and encouraging the commitment of all scientists to good teaching. TU Dortmund University is committed to recruiting the best possible teachers in their respective disciplines. In doing so, it evaluates all teachers not only on their teaching experience and skills, but also on their commitment to teaching and their willingness to expand their personal teaching skills. The university expects them to reflect on themselves as teachers and continue their education, and provides appropriate offers for this purpose.

**Good teaching requires a sound didactic approach.** The teachers at TU Dortmund University deal with current didactic findings as well as with new scientific insights and constantly adapt their teaching accordingly. Concepts, formats and applied methods of teaching are reflected by the teachers, among other things with the help of course evaluations, discussed with the students and further developed. Degree programs represent a variety of teaching formats and methods and are oriented both to the competencies to be developed and to the different prior knowledge of a heterogeneous student body.

**Good teaching requires equipment.** Since sufficient teaching resources are an essential basis for good teaching, TU Dortmund University is committed to improving staffing levels and takes into account the teaching needs in the degree programs as a key starting point when budgeting for the departments. The university continuously develops the technical and spatial infrastructure to create optimal learning environments. In addition, it regards its campus as a place for living and learning together and as a place for meeting and communicating.

**Good teaching makes diversity prosperous.** With their biographies, interests, abilities and experience, the students and teachers at TU Dortmund University reflect a great diversity in society. In a science that depends on openness and discourse, this diversity represents a fundamental resource for individual and collaborative learning. The common search for knowledge and insight requires teachers and learners alike to treat each other with respect and to be willing to question their knowledge and positions again and again. TU Dortmund University is committed to opposing all forms of discrimination and empowering students to deal with diversity in a confident manner.