

# Know your

## Four alumni tell how they

Everyone has different strong points and skills. It's vital to be aware of your strengths and play to them in a specific and targeted manner – when looking for your first job and when plotting the course of your career beyond that. In fact, you might only become aware of your strengths while working in a given role. In this article, four alumni tell us what their particular strengths are, how they identified them and how they benefit from these strengths in their current jobs.



Nora Pohle

Senior Engineer Concept and Design at Infineon Technologies (Bachelor Electrical and Computer Engineering 2015, Master 2019)

In 2015, TUM Alumna Nora Pohle received her Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering. After obtaining a further Bachelor's degree in Philosophy in 2017, she earned her Master's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2019. She joined Infineon Technologies in 2021 and is currently active as a Senior Engineer Digital Concept and Design.

**I possess a strong capacity  
for abstract thinking**

“A capacity for abstract thinking and the ability to get to grips with a new topic area quickly and independently were skills I developed during my time as a student – and are essential for my work as an engineer. Today, I benefit from the experience I gained as a representative in the TUM Senate and Board of Trustees. We would not have been able to bring projects like the Munich semester ticket, which I worked on intensively for several years, to such a successful conclusion without perseverance, determination and a highly structured approach. I draw on these experiences and abilities today at Infineon to help me swiftly adapt to a variety of roles in international teams and major projects, and handle different working methods, processes and new specialist topics.”

Being engaged in the Student Council of TUM offers a lot of valuable experiences and skills. [www.sv.tum.de](http://www.sv.tum.de)

# strengths

## identified their talents

### TUM TIP

The TUM Community events provide great opportunities to build up a network in Germany.  
[www.community.tum.de/events](http://www.community.tum.de/events)

### Teamwork suits me

“When I started studying for my Master’s degree at TUM, all I knew was that I was interested in machine learning and big data. Thanks to the mentoring program, community events, career days and workshops hosted by TUM Alumni & Career, I was able to build a network of contacts in the industry, which helped me to secure two positions as a working student. These roles gave me a clear view of what I wanted to do in my career and highlighted my strengths: problem solving, communication and teamwork. I’m currently working in research and development at a Max Planck Institute. My team brings together a host of bright minds from very different specialist disciplines. Whenever I’m faced with problems that appear unsolvable, that’s when my affinity for teamwork and my communication skills enter the picture. I get my managers and colleagues on board and work with them to develop a solution.”



Hashir Ahmad

Research and Development Engineer at the Max Planck Institute for Biological Intelligence (Master Computer Science 2021)

Hashir Ahmad completed his Bachelor’s degree in Computer Engineering in India in 2018. He received his Master’s degree in Computer Science from TUM in 2021. He was a working student at the Max Planck Institute (MPI) for Biological Intelligence for almost two years and also wrote his Master’s thesis there. Hashir Ahmad started work as a Research and Development Engineer at the MPI in 2022.

## Four alumni tell how they



### My biggest strengths are my resilience and flexibility

“After graduating from my Bachelor’s studies, I worked in full-time positions around the world for a total of four years. This is a practice I continued also at TUM, complimenting my Master’s studies with a working student position as a Business Analyst. The experience gained taught me a huge amount about myself. I realized that my biggest strengths are my resilience and flexibility. There’s no goal set too high for me and no challenge too great. What led me to my full-time position after graduation in the field of IT was my time with the same company as a working student. After a year, I wanted to challenge myself and grow in the Data & Business Intelligence field. That’s exactly what my new job as Business Insights Manager at Knauf Digital offers me.”



Darina Pchelnikova

Business Insights Manager at Knauf Digital GmbH (Bachelor Electrical and Computer Engineering 2015, Master 2019)

In 2014, TUM Alumna Darina Pchelnikova completed her Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration in Bulgaria. She received her Master’s degree in Management & Technology from TUM in 2021, with specialisation in Innovation & Entrepreneurship and in Computer Engineering. Darina Pchelnikova was appointed Business Insights Manager at Knauf Digital GmbH in fall 2022.

You can gain great working experience through student jobs.  
[www.tum.de/jobboerse](http://www.tum.de/jobboerse)

# identified their talents



Vincent Hommel

Sales Engineer at HEGA-Medial and  
Co-Founder of Häng (Bachelor Electrical  
and Computer Engineering 2015, Master  
Management and Technology 2018)

Vincent Hommel completed his Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2015 and his Master's degree in Management and Technology in 2018. He has worked in his family's medical technology firm as a Sales Engineer since 2010. In 2015, he co-founded a start-up that connects amateur athletes via an app. As an expert in all things entrepreneurial, Vincent Hommel is a keen supporter of initiatives to promote start-ups at TUM.

It is worthwhile for all students to participate in one of the many TUM Entrepreneurship Education offerings.  
[www.tum.de/entrepreneurship](http://www.tum.de/entrepreneurship)

**TUM  
TIP**

The meet-up for entrepreneurs and founders is usually held on a monthly basis:  
[www.community.tum.de/events](http://www.community.tum.de/events)

## I love solving problems



“Numerous jobs while at school, as an assistant, and while at university taught me that conventional employment just isn't right for me. I opted to pursue entrepreneurship because it offers me the greatest freedom to develop, both professionally and as a person. My studies gave me the self-confidence I needed to take that step. With the solution-focused approach of an engineer, I feel like I can tackle any issue I face, always following the credo: ‘There's no such thing as impossible’. This mindset serves me well today as an entrepreneur because I'm tasked with problems to solve on an almost daily basis. It was only by comparing myself to others that I become aware of my strengths: composure and negotiation skills. Sharing experiences is enormously important for young entrepreneurs, so I started a regular meet-up. Exchanging stories means that we don't all have to make the same mistakes and can learn from each other's experiences.”