

Start



your own business

You've got your degree in the bag and you have an idea. An idea that you think should become reality. Maybe you are thinking about a new product or you have an innovative method in mind that can solve existing problems. Then maybe founding your own start-up is the right way for you.

At TUM, you will be optimally supported on your way to your own company. Every year, around 70 technology start-ups are founded here, and approximately 1,000 companies have been founded since 1990. If you have your own company, you can usually work passionately on your own ideas and realize your visions with great freedom and independence. But keep in mind that as an entrepreneur you will also have to deal with a lot of paperwork and administrative work. It often takes some time until your own start-up is successful. You should be able to endure this uncertainty. And of course, as an entrepreneur you also take on a lot of responsibility – not least when you hire employees.

If you are unsure whether founding a company is really the right thing for you, then contact the TUM Start-up Consulting. At events at TUM, you can also meet young entrepreneurs who have already taken this path and are happy to share their experiences with you. You can also discuss the idea with your mentor and ask family and friends to what extent you can rely on their help. In the TUM Community you will find special interest groups such as „TUM Startup Connect“, where people interested in start-ups can exchange ideas. You don't have to go this route alone: If you want to start a company, you will find a lot of support.

Support for start-ups

TUM is one of the most successful start-up universities in Europe. Together with its affiliated institute UnternehmerTUM GmbH, TUM offers a wide range of start-up consulting, research and qualification as well as a strong network for entrepreneurs: www.tum.de/en/innovation

TUMentrepreneurship

The TUMentrepreneurship department supports TUM students, researchers, employees and alumni with a comprehensive range of entrepreneurship services.

www.tum.de/en/innovation/entrepreneurship

TUMentrepreneurship Education

is provided by several chairs and professorships of the TUM School of Management as well as the UnternehmerTUM GmbH. www.tum.de/en/innovation/entrepreneurship/for-entrepreneurship-enthusiasts/entrepreneurship-education

Meet-up TUM entrepreneurs

The Meet-up brings together aspiring and experienced entrepreneurs to share experiences on lessons learned, discuss and collaborate.

www.community.tum.de/events

Start-up Consulting

assists students, employees, scientists and alumni on their way to founding innovative companies.

Start-up Mentoring

offers emerging start-up projects the opportunity to be accompanied by hand-picked experts.

www.tum.de/en/innovation/entrepreneurship/for-founders-start-ups

Start-up Meet & Talk

In this series of events organized by TUMentrepreneurship and TUM Alumni & Career, TUM Alumni provide a behind-the-scenes look at their young companies.

www.community.tum.de/events

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*“Follow
your passion.
Passion is the
driving force
behind every
start-up.”*

TUM Alumna Maria Sievert holds a Bachelor in Civil Engineering and a Master in Industrial Engineering. In 2017, she set up inveox, a company now ranking as a global pioneer with its digital solutions for tissue samples.

TUM TIP

TUM offers extensive support for start-ups: www.tum.de/innovation/entrepreneurship

An entrepreneur tells her story

How did you come to setting the company up?

Maria Sievert: My co-founder Dominik Sievert and I became aware independently of each other of the extensive problem of tissue samples becoming mixed up. As digital natives, it was clear to both of us that we needed to find a digital solution. We finally met through the Manage&More program of UnternehmerTUM. It was only when we combined our ideas, that a technically realizable solution and viable business model emerged. With these in our pocket, we went to TUM's start-up consulting. Here, we were given comprehensive advice on all aspects of the start-up phase and received valuable contacts from TUM's extensive network. Financially, we were supported by UnternehmerTUM's KICKSTART funding program and EXIST from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. To this day, we still maintain a lively dialog with various Chairs at TUM. Many of our working students come from there – and some stay on with us also when they have completed their degrees.

What do you see as the greatest challenge of being an entrepreneur?

From my perspective, the biggest challenge is the constant roller coaster ride between ups and downs. Every week, every day, every hour,

every minute, important decisions have to be made that provide answers to the constantly changing demands and sometimes completely unpredictable challenges; to questions of funding, building the team, layoffs and dealing with the Corona pandemic. But every challenge also brings new opportunities. My company is not just a project, but my current life's mission, to which I have dedicated all my energy.

What advice would you give to young people thinking of starting a company?

The fact that we obtained masses of feedback on our business plan proved to be crucial for us. As a young entrepreneur, you often become professionally blind to the obvious in the start-up phase out of sheer zest and euphoria. At times like those, it's extremely valuable to draw on expert appraisals from TUM's wide network in order to obtain new points of view. Another sensible move is to turn to other entrepreneurs who are already a few steps further down the road. We also benefit a lot from their tips. Beyond that, the general advice must be to follow your passion. Passion is the driving force behind the start-up and the key to success. It's the foundation that ensures you can find a solution even to the toughest challenges.

www.community.tum.de/en/maria-sievert

